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Yeltsin Visits Altay Kray

Addressing a meeting of public representatives and local administration officials in Barnaul on 27 May, Yeltsin "rejected outright accusations" from Moldova's Mircea Snegur that the 14th Army "had engaged in military operations in Moldova on orders by the Russian leadership." INTERFAX reports Yeltsin "warned against fears of war" and claimed the 14th Army "would be withdrawn." The Russian president decided the foreign and defense ministers of Russia, Ukraine, and Moldova "would meet in the next two days in Odessa" to find solutions for the Dniester Region and the 14th Army, IZVESTIYA adds, and that he and Ukraine's President Kravchuk will meet in the first 10 days of June so "many matters can be settled."

In response to claims that some are trying to "secure" his resignation, Yeltsin declared he will remain in his post "until the term expires," but he "will not be running for a second term. It is too heavy a burden."

Combat Activity Escalates in South Ossetia

ITAR-TASS cites a report carried on North Ossetian Television noting that there has been "a sharp escalation in combat activity by the Georgian side" on South Ossetia. A separate ITAR-TASS report says the North Ossetian parliamentary speaker made an appeal to Russian President Yeltsin "to take urgent measures to stop the bloodshed." ITAR-TASS later reports that Georgia and North Ossetia reached an agreement "to set up a group to monitor the cease-fire in South Ossetia."

Moscow Radio reports that the South Ossetian National Guards "have a nuclear bomb at their disposal which they are prepared to detonate if Georgia does not stop shelling Tskhinvali." The South Ossetian Council of Ministers' chairman reported this to a Russian Supreme Soviet official. Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev, however, "dismissed the possibility of the presence of nuclear weapons in South Ossetia."

Azerbaijani Leaders Note Goals

Azerbaijani Supreme Soviet Chairman Isa Kamberov, in an interview with Ankara TV, said that he wants to establish "a unitarian and secular state, a state based on a market economy."

Baku Radio broadcasts the "text" of a resolution adopted by the Azerbaijani Popular Front Supreme Assembly, which states that "although politics in the republic are being seriously controlled, the social, political, and economic situation remains tense, caused by Armenia's relentless aggression and by losing part of our land because of certain official circles' betrayal." The Popular Front's main task is identified as "defending the republic's borders; establishing security for the people; maintaining peace in all the repbulic's cities and rayons; and holding democratic presidential elections on 7 June 1992."

The Azerbaijani defense minister decreed that "all armed formations on Azerbaijan territory, which are not part of the republic's Defense Ministry structure, have been declared illegal. They should be disbanded and weapons confiscated," reports Moscow TV. The State Council for Defense also issued an order "introducing joint patrols by the Interior Ministry and the Army. Events involving large crowds have been banned;" "foreigners will now require visas to enter the republic;" and "censorship ... concerning ... defense is being introduced."

Armenian Ministry Issues Statement

Yerevan Radio reports that the Armenian Foreign Ministry issued a statement on the situation in the Armenian regions bordering Nakhichevan. The statement notes that 12 people were killed and more than 30 injured in "barbaric Azerbaijani shelling." The statement questions the "veracity" of Nakhichevan leader Geydar Aliyev's "numerous statements." Aliyev is said to be trying to "place the entire blame for the situation at Nakhichevan's border on the Armenian side. In actual fact, however, the picture is totally different. The Azerbaijani side is provoking military skirmishes on the border to justify the intervention of a third country in the increasingly alarming regional developments."

Russia 'Ready' for Reductions in Nuclear Tests

LD2605123892 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1125 GMT 26 May 92

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Andrey Surzhanskiy]

[Text] Moscow, 26 May (TASS)—"The Russian side is ready to begin talks with the United States on further cuts to the number of nuclear tests. The fundamental settlement of this matter depends on it being agreed upon by the presidents of the two countries at the upcoming summit meeting in Washington in June. At present, Russia intends to adhere to the moratorium on nuclear tests." This was said by Igor Polyanykh, an expert on nuclear test issues of the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, in a conversation today with the ITAR-TASS correspondent.

He was commenting on yesterday's statement by U.S. Defense Secretary Dick Cheney in which he spoke out against proposals for the United States to halt or cut nuclear tests. In the U.S. defense secretary's view, the six tests on average carried out each year are the necessary minimum to maintain the security and reliability of U.S. nuclear weapons.

Such statements, Igor Polyanykh noted, "do not reflect the objectives proclaimed by both sides on reducing arms and decreasing nuclear tension. The Russian side believes that it is possible to agree on a significantly smaller number of tests each year, up to and including stopping them altogether."

Speaking about the position of other nuclear states, Igor Polyanykh recalled that France recently announced its decision to suspend nuclear weapons testing. "As for the underground nuclear blast carried out the other day by China," the Russian expert noted, "its yield exceeded slightly more than six times the limits stipulated by the agreement between Russia and the United States on limiting underground nuclear tests." China cannot formally be accused of violating any norms since it is not a party to this accord. "However, this action does not help to reduce tension in the world," the Russian diplomat stressed.

Chernobyl Reportedly 'Completely Closed Down'

LD2505115392 Hamburg DPA in German 1115 GMT 25 May 92

[Excerpt] Dusseldorf (DPA)—The nuclear power station in Chernobyl in Ukraine has been completely closed down. This was announced by Federal Environment Minister Klaus Toepfer to journalists today at the ENVITEC environmental fair in Dusseldorf. Toepfer cited information to this effect from his Ukrainian counterpart, Yuriy Shcherbak, who had told him that all four blocks of the nuclear power station have been shut down and will remain so "permanently". [passage omitted]

Ukraine Role in START Protocol Examined

LD2705165492 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in English 0000 GMT 27 May 92

[Station Commentary by Mykola Kravchuk]

[Excerpt] A few days ago in Lisbon the foreign ministers of Byelarus, Kazakhstan, Russia, and Ukraine and US Secretary of State, James Baker signed a protocol to the START Treaty. Here is our commentary, read by Radio Ukraine's Mykola Kravchuk. [passage omitted]

Today many objections can be heard in Ukraine concerning its decision to be a non-nuclear state. Isn't it a mistake to get rid of the nuclear weapons and ask no guarantees instead? Of course it is hard to accept that 1200 nuclear warheads for which the Ukrainian nation paid a very high price mean nothing but extra loss connected with their annihilation. President of Ukraine, Leonid Kravchuk dispersed such worries by a convincing argument. The most essential guarantees for Ukraine are domestic stability, development of new independent structures of power, national armed forces and a strong financial system. The status of a non-nuclear state will facilitate Ukraine's entrance to economic structures of Europe and promote its authority.

'Closed Cities' Experience No 'Big Changes'

LD2205185692 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0957 GMT 22 May 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Valeriy Loskutov]

[Text] Oslo May 22 TASS—Russia has no clearly-defined policy of converting defence enterprises to civilian production, according to a senior Russian official.

Despite a lot of talk on the matter, practically nothing has changed in the sphere, Vitaliy Shlykov, deputy chairman of the Russian State Committee on Defence said at a press conference in the Norwegian city of Stavanger where he attended an international conference on "closed cities" and military conversion.

Shlykov's pronouncements sharply contrasted with statements of other experts, according to the "AFTENPOSTEN" newspaper. Thus, Aleksandr Mokhov, an expert of the Russian Atomic Energy Ministry, said at the conference the conversion process is going on successfully.

But Shlykov said military production in Russia has practically stalled which is fraught with danger of social chaos in case the government fails to offer a concrete plan of conversion. One should not think big changes have taken place in "closed cities", he added. Secrecy and security there are as rigid as they were before. All decisions are still to be approved by senior officials in Moscow, according to Shlykov.

IAEA Technical Committee Convenes on the Volga

PM2705142892 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 26 May 92 First Edition p 5

[Unattributed report: "Nuclear Experts 'Sit'"]

[Text] Leading nuclear physicists from 12 countries of Asia, America, and Europe arrived by train and plane in the city of Dimitrovgrad, on the Volga, yesterday. The scientific center of the Research Institute of Atomic Reactors which is located here, founded 35 years ago on the initiative of Academician Kurchatov, is the venue for a session of the IAEA [International Atomic Energy Agency] technical committee which opens today.

This is the second time in the last five years that this international agency has convened a meeting of the planet's nuclear experts in Dimitrovgrad. This time the arrival of atomic experts from Belgium, Britain, Germany, Canada, South Korea, Norway, the United States, France, Czecho-Slovakia, Switzerland, and Sweden is due to the urgency of the problems submitted for discussion. The scientists intend to exchange information and developments associated with increasing the reliability of the fuel systems of water-cooled reactors.

"On the final day of the meeting, Friday 29 May," Valentin Ivanov, director of the Research Institute of Atomic Reactors, announced, "guests will be able to see for themselves the latest achievements of the Russian Federation's nuclear scientists, when they visit our institute."

Smart Weapons Potential Versus U.S. Viewed

PM2505105592 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 23 May 92 p 1

[Report by A. Khokhlov: "We Also Have Superweapons. And No Worse than the American Ones"]

[Text] Army General Pavel Grachev, Russian Federation defense minister, has stated that the Russian Armed Forces will be few in number but highly mobile and equipped with high-precision weapons, to which the future in military matters belongs—the USSR and now Russia has high-precision weapons in no way inferior to U.S. weapons and often superior to them, says military analyst Major General V. Slipchenko. In terms of high-precision weapons developments we have so far retained parity with the United States. There are high-precision weapons in service. They can strike targets at a distance of several thousand kilometers with a very high degree of precision.

In the warheads of high-precision weapons TNT occupies only part of the volume, and a small part at that. The remainder consists of homing devices—television, infrared, thermal, and optical. The main principle of operation of high-precision weapons has become "shoot and forget."

The most impressive potential of high-precision weapons was seen by the world last year, during the conflict in the Persian Gulf. The television companies of many countries tirelessly "kept the cameras rolling": An American cruise missile would penetrate the wall of an Iraqi hydroelectric power station and two minutes later a second missile would fly right through the hole it had made, destroying the station's equipment...

A few statistics. To take out a standard target during World War II the United States would make 4,500 aircraft flights delivering 9,000 bombs which would fall with an average probable error of 3 km. During the Vietnam period a standard target would be taken out by 95 aircraft using 190 bombs. The average probable error was 300 meters. In Iraq one aircraft launching one missile could cope with this combat mission.

During the 43 days of the war with Iraq the allies' troops dropped 89,000 tonnes of bombs and missiles on enemy targets. Of these only 6,500 tonnes were high-precision weapons but they struck 90 percent of the targets. A number of our military analysts believe that the Americans simply "sowed" the Iraqi deserts with conventional weapons to avoid the trouble of destroying them by conventional methods....

According to several competent sources, the USSR never used its high-precision weapons in a real war. Except for the old air defense complexes, whose accuracy is just 80 percent. The "Scud" missiles which were used in Afghanistan and which so frightened the Israelis recently are one of the first generation of Soviet missiles of the early sixties.

Until the early eighties the scientists and designers of the USSR and the United States kept level with each other in the development of high-precision weapons. But then their paths diverged. The Americans went further while we started to build up our nuclear arsenals and the number of armored divisions, gambling on a victory first in a large nuclear war and then in a large nonnuclear war. Alas, soon these gambles may prove to have been lost. A cruise missile which has a TNT charge but which strikes a target accurately is more reliable and cheaper than a nuclear bomb (and does not contaminate the territory) while armored divisions in a possible future war will simply not have time to leave their military townships.

Today it is estimated that 25-30 percent of the U.S. army's weapons are high-precision weapons. According to competent native sources, the figure for the Russian army is far lower. By the year 2000 the United States can double or even treble its supply of high-precision weapons. But what about us?

A number of experts believe that given the existing situation in the economy arming the Russian army with high-precision weapons right now is unlikely, perhaps even impossible. But there is no alternative.

Military experts believe that we lag 7-10 years behind the United States in terms of the army's provision with high-precision weapons. But in terms of the level of intellectual developments they have not yet overtaken us. The "smart" munitions already in service are competitive. The praised U.S. "Patriot" surface to air missile complex loses out to the analogous Russian "S-300." Incidentally, after the persian Gulf war our military suggested to their U.S. counterparts that they "hold a competition" for the complexes, but the Americans took a long time to send a reply and then completely "forgot" to give it....

Rearming the Russian army with high-precision weapons is encountering only two obstacles, time and money. The latter "barrier" is the more complicated. A cruise missile can cost as much as a supermodern fighter: 430-50 million. In addition our transistor is 10 times more expensive than a Singapore one and is soldered by hand. But how much does Russia spend today on the maintenance of a countless number of motorized and armored divisions and the production of nuclear weapons?

The Russian army could be further reduced to even less than 1.5 million men if a reliable air defense system exists and there is a sufficient quantity of high-precision munitions. The main thing is that such an army should be able reliably to ensure Russia's security on the border between the millenia. Will it succeed? We shall see....

U.S. Firm Proposes Joint Use of 'Topaz-2'

PM2205131792 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1400 GMT 13 May 92

[Video report by Irina Spirina and Yuriy Alekseyev; from the "Tinko" program]

[Excerpt] [Spirina] [video starts with shot of scientists examining reactor] A lot has already been said and written about the "Topaz-2" device and its planned sale abroad. And, rather unusually, this surfeit of information has merely confused the issue. Jingoists have been particularly to the fore—prompting newspaper headlines such as "Soviet Reactor Should Not Be Used for SDI," "Soviet Space Secrets for Export," "We Sell Americans Nuclear Spy Satellite Power Plant," and so on. Let's take a closer look at things. The "Topaz-2" is a small nuclear device to generate electricity in space. Put simply, it's a power station using nuclear fuel and capable of powering various types of spacecraft for prolonged periods—up to five years. The main developers of the device were the Kurchatov Atomic Energy Institute in Moscow, the Central Machine Building Design Bureau in St. Petersburg, and the "Luch" Science and Production Association in Podolsk. Our "Topaz-2" program was wound up for an understandable reason—a shortage of funds. But, with the onset of the glasnost policy, Soviet scientists' achievements in this area became known to a broad range of the world scientific public. And it turned out that our achievements in this area are still unique—there is still no counterpart to the "Topaz" anywhere in the world. U.S. specialists tried tackling the problem, but at a certain point they were forced to call a halt to the work because of its high cost. That was when the idea emerged of the two countries' cooperating in space exploration with the help of power plants like "Topaz-2." And calculations showed that it could even be profitable to sell the power generated by a "Topaz." The International Scientific Production Corporation—a U.S. firm—has proposed a joint project to use these systems in civilian space programs. The first step along this road was the signing of a contract for demonstration tests of the "Topaz" in the United States. It is planned to set up the device in Alburquerque, New Mexico, and test it on a special "Baykal" test bed. The test bed will allow the technical characteristics of the "Topaz" to be assessed without nuclear fuel. [passage omitted] [video shows various shots of reactor, loading procedure. Video ends with shot of Ned Britt, vice president of ISP]

Turkish Role in Armenia, Azerbaijan Viewed

PM2705091592 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 23 May 92 Morning Edition p 4

["Editorial Viewpoint" article: "Turkish Intervention Could Lead To Disaster"]

[Text] "We will be sending troops to Nakhichevan. We should send them there without hesitation—otherwise there could be a repetition of events in Nagorno-Karabakh." This publicly proclaimed intention of Turkish President Turgut Ozal could trigger an explosion in the already unstable Caucasus region. The effect of the threatened intervention would be akin to adding fuel to the fire of the undeclared Armenia-Azerbaijan war.

The references to the 1920 Soviet-Turkish Treaty, under which Ankara formally guarantees the territorial integrity of Nakhichevan, are as groundless as the Brezhnev Politburo's attempts to justify the invasion of Afghanistan by referring to the treaty between Kabul and Moscow.

This is not 1920. An invasion by NATO member Turkey could be seen from the legal standpoint as an invasion of the CIS by NATO, which would run the risk of a clash with one of the parties to the treaty of collective security recently signed in Tashkent. Moreover, before "crossing the Rubicon," the Turkish Army would first have to deal with the Commonwealth Armed Forces guarding the border—with all the consequences this would entail, and most probably not just for the Caucasus.

Turkey is a member of NATO. It is hard to imagine the Western alliance wanting to get involved—even formally—in a military adventure whose outcome hardly anyone would try to predict today. Let us hope that Brussels will make its feelings known on this score. UN forces exist to provide a peacekeeping function. The world community tasks these forces with extremely tricky and delicate mediation missions, confident in their impartiality and neutrality.

Turkey is a parliamentary republic, therefore the real levers of power in the country are held by the prime minister rather than the president. Many people there believe that the opposition party which T. Ozal heads is trying to exploit the Transcaucasus conflict for its own narrowly selfish ends—to undermine the positions of the S. Demirel government, which is pursuing a far more realistic course. It is quite common in politics for party leaders to jeopardize security and peace for the sake of short-term interests.

Further Comment

PM2505104992 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 21 May 92 Morning Edition pp 1, 5

[Konstantin Eggert report: "The European Community Has Accused Armenia of Aggression Against Azerbaijan"]

[Excerpts] "We cannot fail to condemn these acts of aggression and deem it essential to state unequivocally that they are absolutely unacceptable"—this is how a statement by the EC member countries described Armenia's actions with relation to Azerbaijan. It was brought to the attention of the CSCE Committee of Senior Officials in Helsinki by the Portuguese representative on behalf of the entire European Community. [passage omitted]

Turkey is taking up an increasingly extreme position. It is noteworthy that the views of President Turgut Ozal, whose Motherland Party is in the opposition following the parliamentary elections, and of the government headed by Suleyman Demirel, are inexorably coming together. Earlier the prime minister advocated a policy of a balanced approach toward Yerevan and Baku, unlike Ozal, who demanded direct intervention by Turkey on Azerbaijan's side. Demirel is now promising Geydar Aliyev that he will "grant assistance" to Nakhichevan, while the president, who is undergoing treatment in the United States, is directly demanding the immediate dispatch of Turkish troops to this autonomous region of Azerbaijan. REUTER reports that the premier called direct military intervention "a possibility," leaving the final resolution of the problem to parliament.

Ankara has special interests in the Transcaucasus. The 1921 Moscow Treaty, whose initiators were Lenin and Ataturk, still forms the basis of its relations with Russia. According to it, Nakhichevan is an autonomous territory under Azerbaijan's protection. The fact that the status of part of a third state was especially mentioned in a bilateral agreement between the RSFSR and Turkey provides Turkey with a reason to claim that everything that is going on in Nakhichevan cannot be considered strictly the Azerbaijani Republic's internal affair. It must also be borne in mind that the principles of mutual relations between Ankara and the three Soviet republics of the Transcaucasus were enshrined in the Kars Treaty of 1921. No one has rescinded this agreement. Obviously the whole complex of questions connected with the escalation of tension in the area will be the focus of attention at the talks between Demirel and the Russian leadership in Moscow 25 and 26 May.

Possible military demonstrations by Turkey are inevitably complicating its relations with Russia and the CIS. Following the Tashkent agreements on collective security, which were signed by Armenia but not by Azerbaijan, Yerevan acquired the right to appeal to members of the Commonwealth, and primarily to the Russian Federation, for assistance at any time. However unlikely it may seem today, the possibility of confrontation between Turkey, which is part of NATO, and the CIS Armed Forces in the Transcaucasus risks turning into a nightmare reality tomorrow.

The world community should look very seriously at the proposal made by Yuliy Vorontsov, the Russian representative in the United Nations, on the formation of mixed peace-keeping forces involving the UN "blue helmets," CSCE troops, and CIS Armed Forces special units. A special UN mission is flying out to the conflict area on Wednesday, 27 May, and, in a conversation with journalists in New York, Vorontsov insisted that it should exert influence on the situation in the region.

CIS Ship 'Attacked' Near Philippines

LD2605160592 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1727 GMT 26 May 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Roman Zadunaiskiy]

[Text] Moscow May 26 TASS—A large landing ship "Vilkov" from the CIS Navy was attacked by an unknown vessel on Sunday [24 May], sources at the CIS Navy press center told ITAR-TASS.

The "Vilkov" was heading for Vladivostok through the Luzon Strait, the Philippines. At 15:40 Moscow time (at night in the Philippines) the ship maneuvered to pass by an unidentified vessel, which seemed to be a fishing seiner, when it was unexpectedly put under automatic rifle fire at a distance of one to one and a half kilometers.

In order to prevent more grave consequences and show whom the attackers were dealing with, the Russian ship made several warning shots from a side small-caliber gun. After that the attacking vessel disappeared.

There are not devastations or victims on board the "Vilkov".

The Russian seamen do not exclude the vessel, whose state belonging was not established, could be a pirate one. About 150 pirate attacks on cargo and passenger vessels are reported annually from sea routes.

Attacks of high-speed pirate boats at unprotected ships are not a rare thing off shore the Philippine and neighbouring Indonesian archipelagoes. The South Korean ocean tanker with a displacement of 120,000 tonnes, the Greek ore carrier Konkar Dinos with a displacement of 114,000 tonnes, the U.S. Ocean City tanker and other vessels have recently been their victims.

In addition, pirates might have taken the large landing ship for a tanker, which it resembles, as tropical nights are so dark. Being given an unexpected response, the pirates disappeared immediately.

International Slavic Cultures Congress Held

Talks Open 25 May

PM2705143592 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 26 May 92 Morning Edition p 1

[ITAR-TASS report: "Slavic Congress Has Opened"]

[Text] An international congress of Slavic cultures opened 25 May in the House of Unions Hall of Columns. Taking part are eminent scholars, figures of literature and art, and representatives of the clergy of more than 20 countries.

In the opinion of Sergey Stankevich, chairman of the congress organizational committee, the forum is designed to play a notable part in uniting the Slavic peoples, many of whom are in a crisis situation at present. He said that the forum will discuss the fate of the Slavs, the maintenance and development of their cultures, and collective security measures.

The Moscow congress will last four days and then its participants will visit Slavic lands—Ukraine and Byelarus—and visit Voronezh.

Yeltsin Greets Congress

PM2705094992 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 25 May 92 First Edition p 1

[Greetings message from Russian President B.N. Yeltsin to participants in the International Congress on Slav Cultures, date not given, carried under the rubric "Two Days At the End of the Week": "We Are Together, Brother Slavs. To Participants in the International Congress on Slavic Cultures"]

[Text] Esteemed ladies and gentlemen!

I am happy to welcome you to the capital of the Russian Federation, where in these spring days events are being held in pursuit of the noble and humane goals of strengthening good relations between the Slav peoples—peoples who are related by descent, close in language and culture, and neighbors according to their abode on earth.

I think that we all keenly feel how important this is not only for each of our countries, but for the whole human community.

The history of the Slavs numbers many centuries. It contains many bright pages. More than once our peoples have pinned their last hopes in their hour of need on their brothers by descent, and have not been deceived in their expectations.

Each of our peoples has acquired its own unique identity and created a unique culture. But not one of them was granted an easy fate. Recollections of outbreaks of mutual emnity also abide in the memory of our peoples. Today we are all experiencing an awkward period of liberation from dictatorship, whose deadening oppression has been felt by many peoples. Not one Slav country was destined to escape its iron hoop. This era sowed the seeds of mutual antipathy and suspicion. All this clouds relations between the Slav peoples and states. Hatred and violence toward those who think and act differently, which constitute the essence of communist doctrine, have left deep gashes in people's souls.

A past rich in events is for us an invaluable asset. A profound interpretation of this past will keep us from repeating fateful errors and help us to better understand ourselves and one another, and to understand the significance of our spiritual community, the great creative potential of the idea of the unity of the Slavs.

There is no doubt that it is necessary in the fundamental interests of our peoples to overcome the inheritance of distrust and alienation. We are embarking on the road of freedom, democracy, and civilization; the humanist traditions of Slav cultures are being revived, and people are again acquiring faith. And however painful this process may be, it can no longer be stopped. I am convinced that it is bound to lead to fruitful results. And this is one of the most important conditions for achieving true mutual understanding and firm collaboration.

In all times culture has played a unifying role. I hope that today also figures of science and culture, true to the traditions of the holy brothers Cyril and Methodius, will promote the rapprochement of the Slav peoples.

I sincerely wish success to the participants in the Days of Slavic Culture and the International Congress of Slavic Culture. Peace and prosperity to all Slavs! Let our meeting do a good service to the noble cause of mutual understanding between the peoples of the earth!

[Signed] B. Yeltsin

Talks Continue

LD2705085392 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2224 GMT 26 May 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Moscow May 26 TASS—A desire for fraternal concord and peace has attracted people to the International Congress of Slav Cultures currently under way in Moscow. Twenty-two countries, as well as 100 regions of Russia, today began working in congress panels and roundtables here. They are to discuss a wide range of problems, linked with the perpetuation and multiplication of their cultural and historical legacy, spiritual and economic revival of Russia and other Slav states. An important item of the agenda is devoted to ways for overcoming the crisis of relations between some Slav countries.

Modern culture badly needs the help of businessmen, who, as a matter of fact, are largely responsible for the convocation of the current congress. A seminar on "economic problems and business" was organised within the frameworks of the congress. There were calls to set up a permanent information and consultation centre for training businessmen in Slav countries. By the way, businessmen figure prominently on several delegations that have come to the congress.

UNESCO Director-General Federico Mayor has addressed a message of greetings to the congress, wishing it success in its endeavours.

G-7 Countries on 'New Independent States'

LD2805083992 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0650 GMT 28 May 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vasiliy Golovnin]

[Text] Tokyo May 28 TASS—The Group of Seven industrialised countries has taken a decision to use a new abbreviation for the Eurasian territory which once used to be called the USSR. The G-7 countries will from now on use in their official papers the term "New Independent States" rather than the "Commonwealth of Independent States". The term will embrace the "CIS plus Georgia" which, as is known, did not join the Commonwealth. Besides, as a source in the Japanese Foreign Ministry said, the G-7 countries have long been eager to use an absolutely neutral term for the former USSR, because even some CIS member-states, in view of Western countries, want to distance themselves from this grouping.

Japan Not Planning Embassies in Baltic States

OW2405163392 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1608 GMT 24 May 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Japan has no intention of opening embassies in Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia, and its interests in those countries will be represented by the embassies of Sweden, Denmark and Finland, a Japanese diplomat told BF [BALTFAX] news agency on condition of anonymity. Japanese ambassadors in the three Scandinavian countries are due to hand credentials soon to heads of the Baltic states (no Japanese ambassadors have so far been accredited there).

The Japanese diplomat denied allegations by European experts saying that Japan's decision reflected its lukewarm interest in the Baltic market. In his words, Japan is very keen to cooperate with Baltic companies but it has no need to open embassies to do so. Shortage of staff and money was one other reason he gave to explain the move.

In the meantime, BF referring to well-informed sources reports that Japan is planning to open its representation in Estonia this year to handle culture and science, but it will have no embassy status. Discussion is under way of spreading its activity onto the other two republics. No word is given either of its budget or when it will open.

Baltics Report on North Atlantic Assembly Meeting

OW2105192392 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1813 GMT 21 May 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Speaker of the Estonian Parliament Ulo Nugis and Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee Indrek Toome returned from the Canadian city of Banffa

Wednesday [20 May] where they attended the Spring session of the North Atlantic Assembly May 14-18.

In an interview with "BF" [BALTFAX] Toome said that the delegations from Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania, all members of the Assembly, addressed NATO nations with the request to assist in the prompt withdrawal of Commonwealth military units from the Baltic states.

The North Atlantic Assembly expressed the readiness to act as a mediator in talks between Russia and Baltic nations on military matters. The participants in the talks were asked to present a program for the withdrawal of forces.

Shaposhnikov Receives U.S. Senator Harkin

PM2205141992 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 20 May 92 p 3

[Unattributed report: "Meeting Held"]

[Text] Marshal of Aviation Yevgeniy Shaposhnikov, commander in chief of the CIS Joint Armed Forces, received Senator Tom Harkin of the U.S. Congress at the latter's request 18 April [date as published]. They had an intimate [doveritelnyy] talk about questions of mutual interest.

The meeting was held in a warm and friendly atmosphere.

Shaposhnikov Receives Euro-Atlantic Delegation

LD2505163792 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1500 GMT 25 May 92

[Text] Marshal of Aviation Yevgeniy Shaposhnikov, commander in chief of the CIS Joint Armed Forces, today received representatives of the international group of experts of the Association of Euro-Atlantic Cooperation. It is headed by Admiral Crowe, former chairman of the U.S. Armed Forces Joint Chiefs of Staff.

In the course of the meeting, questions of the nuclear safety and security of the strategic forces command of the CIS Joint Armed Forces were discussed.

CIS Defense Ministers Meeting

More on Defense Ministers' Council Session

PM2805081392 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 28 May 92 p 1

[Major S. Knyazkov report: "Black Sea Fleet Not Part of Strategic Forces. Defense Ministers' Council Awaits Solution to This Issue From Russia and Ukraine"]

[Text] As our newspaper has already reported, a conference of the CIS states' Defense Ministers' Council was held in Moscow 26 May. Judging by its results, it was highly productive, although the lion's share of the time—as Marshal of Aviation Yevgeniy Shaposhnikov, commander in chief of the Commonwealth Joint Armed Forces, remarked—was taken up by the discussion of point one: the status, structure, and functions of the Joint Armed Forces High Command. But the question remained open, even though general approaches to its resolution were found.

Marshal of Aviation Yevgeniy Shaposhnikov himself sees the High Command's functions as being to maintain the strategic forces at the proper level, to ensure their operational command and control, to elaborate positions on the administration of treaty processes to which we are already committed, to prevent local conflicts arising on the former Union's external borders and to react swiftly to them, and, finally, to analyze the general political situation in the world and draw up recommendations and proposals for the CIS Heads of State Council and the participants in the Treaty on Collective Security.

The second most important issue at the meeting—which was admittedly discussed by a narrow circle of representatives from Russia, Ukraine, Byelarus, and Kazakhstan—concerned the Strategic Forces. The conference participants clarified the list of these forces on the basis of the 30 December 1991 agreement signed by the Commonwealth heads of state in Minsk, making the list fuller. They proposed that a similar summit in Moscow 6 June should ratify a document under which the Strategic Forces would include the Strategic Rocket Forces, air force and naval nuclear components, missile attack early warning systems, ABM defenses, some "space" elements, and units to service them. The Airborne Troops are not on the list.

Marshal of Aviation Shaposhnikov also stated that the Black Sea Fleet would be outside the Strategic Forces. But then the news conference participants explained that, under an agreement, all questions relating to the Black Sea Fleet would be decided by Russia and Ukraine.

As the news conference participants put it, there were heated discussions on this problem at the conference and "there were many clashes." And even at the news conference a debate almost flared up between Lieutenant General Ivan Bizhan, Ukrainian deputy defense minister, and Colonel General Leontiy Kuznetsov, acting chief of the Russian Federation Defense Ministry General Staff.

It all started with a question to the Ukrainian representative about the creation on the republic's territory of a strategic forces command and control center. Lt. Gen. Bizhan explained that it was merely a question of the administrative subordination of all force groupings deployed on Ukrainian territory. Through this act the Ukrainian president envisages determining the state-legal status of servicemen serving on the republic's territory. Hitherto, as Bizhan put it, exactly which state should be concerned about their social rights has not been understood. Operational command—that is, single control [yedinyy kontrol] over nuclear weapons—combat alert duty, and nuclear security continue to be delegated to the commander of the Strategic Deterrent Forces and the commander in chief of the CIS Joint Armed Forces. An actual Strategic Forces command and control center, Bizhan stated, has not been set up in Ukraine nor, clearly, will it be.

A different opinion on these problems is held by the Russian General Staff. According to Col. Gen. Kuznetsov, Ukraine's unilateral actions are jeopardizing nuclear security.

Apart from those already listed, the defense ministers' conference submitted a whole slew of other important documents for examination by the Commonwealth heads of state. These include agreements relating to the system of missile attack early warning measures, space monitoring [kontrol kosmicheskogo prostranstva], the air defense system, the ensuring of a unified identification system for air, sea, and ground targets, and a protocol ratifying the provision on the Collective Security Council with amendments. Proposals on military matters have been submitted to the draft Commonwealth statutes. Admittedly, it was not possible to discuss the financing of the High Command and the Joint Armed Forces as a whole owing to the Finance Directorate's lack of preparedness to report its views in detail.

Shaposhnikov Cited on Ukrainian Strategic Forces

PM2805082392 Moscow TRUD in Russian 28 May 92 p 1

[Report by V. Badurkin: "Black Sea Fleet No Longer Strategic"]

[Text] The composition of the Commonwealth Strategic Forces was maybe the main question the CIS countries' defense ministers managed to agree on at their 26 May session. Henceforth they will include only the Strategic Rocket Forces, the nuclear forces of the air force and the navy, the missile attack warning system, and space-based components. The Black Sea Fleet's future will now be decided solely at talks between Russian and Ukrainian delegations.

The question of the status of Ukrainian strategic forces remains open. Ukrainian delegation head Lieutenant General Ivan Bizhan said that his republic was not claiming control of the nuclear button, although it had taken charge and administrative control of strategic forces' units and subunits stationed on its territory. But according to Colonel General Leontiy Kuznetsov, representing Russia at the meeting, Kiev's decision is an infringement of the the Russian Federation's rights and responsibility to the world, which were granted to it by the heads of the CIS states, and casts doubt on nuclear security.

But there is hope of a successful solution of this problem, Marshal Shaposhnikov, commander in chief of the Joint Armed Forces, told your TRUD correspondent. The day before he had spent more than 90 minutes talking about the NATO strategic forces' command and control system with Admiral Crowe, former chairman of the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff, and, according to Yevgeniy Ivanovich, "It seems that a solution has been found that should satisfy both sides."

Black Sea Fleet Issues

Black Sea Fleet Rejects Ukrainian Instructions

PM2705151992 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 22 May 92 p 3

[UKRINFORM correspondent M. Stetsyuk report under the "Direct Line" rubric: "Black Sea Fleet Military Council Statement. Fleet Subordinate Only to CIS Joint Armed Forces High Command"]

[Text] Sevastopol, 21 May—The Black Sea Fleet Military Council regards the Ukrainian Defense Ministry's instructions on bringing units and ships up to strength with draftees only from Ukraine as a new stage of the escalation of tension. In its statement about this, the Military Council reiterated that the fleet is subordinate to the CIS Joint Armed Forces High Command and must acquire manpower according to the CIS Navy Main Staff plan. Furthermore, the unified system of training junior specialists for all CIS fleets must not be allowed to break down, which would lead to a reduction in the standards of seamen's and petty officers' professional training.

The statement notes that the performance of service in ships for a period of less than two years will not guarantee maritime safety. Bearing in mind the requirements of the Ukrainian law on universal military service obligation and military service, draftees from Ukraine will be posted to the fleet's units for a service period of one-and-a-half years.

Ukraine Recommends Suspension of Military Draft

LD2405210792 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1900 GMT 24 May 92

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] The Ukrainian defense minister and the commander of the Ukrainian border troops have sent a telegram to Marshal Shaposhnikov, commander in chief of the CIS Joint Armed Forces, stating the Ukrainian military leadership recommends that the military draft to vessels of the Black Sea Fleet should be suspended until a political decision has been adopted on the Black Sea Fleet. Ukraine retains the right to impede the arrival of conscripts from CIS countries to the fleet's bases, maintaining that it could cause undesirable consequences.

Ukraine Prepared To Share Black Sea Fleet

LD2705100992 Berlin ADN in German 0852 GMT 27 May 92

[Text] Sevastopol (ADN)—Ukraine is prepared to share the former Soviet Union's Black Sea Fleet with Russia and Georgia. With regard to the dispute over who will inherit the fleet, Rear Admiral Boris Kozhin, commander in chief of the Ukrainian Navy, told an ADN correspondent in Sevastopol today that the warships based in Ukrainian ports ought to belong to Ukraine. Similarly, Russia and Georgia could create their own naval armed forces on the basis of the ships based in their Black Sea ports. "Actual ships should belong to actual states," said the rear admiral.

He announced that Ukraine will now dispatch its sailors to the ships which are in Ukrainian ports. The presence of conscripted soldiers from other CIS states on these ships is a violation of previous agreements, said the Navy leader.

Georgia is also laying claim to a part of the Black Sea Fleet, as are Russia and Ukraine. Representatives from the countries are currently discussing this with the Fleet Command in Sevastopol.

Georgian Delegation at Black Sea Fleet Talks

OW2705114292 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1042 GMT 27 May 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Black Sea Fleet's press center informed IF [INTERFAX] that on May 26 and 27, a delegation of the Georgian Defence Ministry, led by Deputy Defence Minister Tamaz Tskhakaya and Commander of the Poti Naval Brigade Dzhumber Gabunia have been in Sevastopol on the invitation of the Black Sea Fleet command.

No details of the talks have been given yet. The only information the press center has released is that "during this working meeting, the two sides have coordinated and specified positions on the future of the Black Sea Fleet".

A few days ago, Georgia's Deputy-Defence Minister Nodar Georgadze said that the Black Sea Fleet must be divided between three states - Russia, Ukraine and Georgia - on the basis of the principles of justice.

Talks Termed 'Constructive'

LD2805112592 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0755 GMT 28 May 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Andrey Naryshkin]

[Text] Moscow, 28 May—Captain First Class Valeriy Novikov, chief of the press service of the CIS Navy, today described as "extremely constructive and full of good will" the atmosphere of the talks on dividing up part of the Black Sea Fleet forces stationed in Georgia. The talks, held in Sevastopol on 26 May, were headed by Georgian Deputy Defense Minister Tomaz Tskhakaya and Vice Admiral Georgiy Gurinov, chief of staff of the Black Sea Fleet.

Valeriy Novikov stressed in a conversation with this ITAR-TASS correspondent that the talks on the fate of the ships and forces of the fleet stationed on the Black Sea coast of Georgia were of a preliminary nature. The proposals drafted by the experts will be submitted to the governments of Russia and Georgia for examination.

Military

Escalation of Anti-Army Actions in Baltic States

MK2505152792 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 23 May 92 p 3

[Yelena Visens report under "Baltic" rubric: "Anti-Army Actions: Chance or Provocation? If It Is the Latter, Military Intend To Shoot"]

[Excerpt] Following a temporary lull due to the acceleration of talks between Russia and the Baltic republics regarding the withdrawal of the former USSR's troops from these countries, the situation over the military in Latvia, Lithuania, and Estonia has worsened again. This has become evident in several incidents entailing more diplomatic activity.

Thus, a "group of unarmed Russian servicemen going about their regular work on the border troops' communication cables" came under armed attack from "Latvian militiamen." The upshot was that one private was wounded, the rest were arrested, and only released after the Russian side protested.

On Sunday 17 May a CIS naval base in the Estonian city of Paldiski (home of the former Union's only nuclear submarine training center) was "attacked" by a group of demonstrators—members of the "Green" Party headed by Estonian Supreme Soviet Deputy Juri Liim. The deputy said that they had "no intention of capturing the city and base, but simply wanted to show at least some Estonians an occupied city." Estonia's official authorities expressed regret at their citizens' actions, pointing out that they do not reflect the Estonian leadership's official stance and that the resolution of the problem cannot be speeded up by strong-arm methods.

Whereas the Estonian side evidently does not stand to gain from complicating the sitation—some progress has been made in talks—Latvia and Lithuania are far more forthright. In response to the Russian Foreign Ministry's protest note (which was, incidentally, only conveyed to the Latvian Embassy six days after the incident) the head of the Latvian parliament expressed regret that "agreement has still not been reached with Russia on schedules and dates for the troop withdrawal and also on the procedure for transferring military installations," thus to some extent justifying the Latvian militiamen's lack of restraint.

The Russian leadership has no intention of changing its position on the issue of the troops' stay in the Baltic. Nor has it any intention of tolerating these incidents. The protest note to Latvia says that "the Latvian side will in future be totally responsible for the possible consequences of such actions." The Russian side has demanded an investigation, punishment of those guilty, and compensation for material and moral damage. This protest was handed to Anatolijs Gorbunovs, chairman of the Latvian Supreme Soviet, by Colonel General Valeriy Mironov, commander of the CIS Northwestern Group of Forces. This statement notes that the "Military Council has decided to put a stop to actions that violate the interests of the Russian Federation, servicemen, members of their families, and its citizens."

Last week Lithuania tightened its supervision of "movements" of military hardware on the republic's highways. According to a joint order issued by the Lithuanian minister of national defense and the republic's internal affairs minister, movement of motorized transport and troop units under Russian jurisdiction is authorized only with the special permission of the local authorities (the commandants of Lithuanian Ministry of National Defense okrugs). Troop unit commanders must submit special applications (for single vehicles, no later than three days before a journey; for convoys (three or more vehicles) no later than 10 days before) in order to receive such permission. Russian servicemen regard these actions unequivocally as "a desire to fuel tension and provoke dangerous incidents." Similar Lithuanian Government decisions are creating unnecessary difficulties for the withdrawal of the former USSR's troops from East Europe, as Sergey Filatov, first deputy chairman of the Russian Supreme Soviet, noted at a briefing following his trip to the Western Group of Forces. [passage omitted]

Ukraine Yet To Sign Tripartite Defense Deal

PM2605094592 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 22 May 92 Morning Edition p 2

[Report by Viktor Litovkin: "Ukraine Promises To Stand Under Space Umbrella"]

[Text] In IZVESTIYA No. 116 we reported that Russia, Ukraine, and Byelarus signed documents 19 May in

Moscow on instituting the "Vympel" Interstate Joint-Stock Corporation, which brings together under one roof the scientific-technical and production base of the defense complex engaged in developing and creating ABM systems and missile attack warning systems.

We must apologize to our readers. The news was premature. Russia and Byelarus signed the agreement. Ukraine did not. Why not?

The point is that the agreement creating "Vympel"—the first interstate concern in our defense complex—was signed by the three states' governments back on 15 January. It took some months to prepare and agree on the terms for bringing the stockholders together under one roof, on a joint scientific-technical policy, on tariffs [rastsenki]... The corporation's founders—the Russian State Property Commission, the Ukrainian State Property Fund, and the Committee to Manage State Property under the Byelarus Council of Ministers—had their actions approved by the states' governments. The heads of government of Ukraine, Russia, and Byelarus initialed the documents. But even in Moscow it turned out that Ukrainian delegation head Vladimir Pryadko, chairman of the country's State Property Fund Board, did not have from the Ukrainian Supreme Soviet, which now exercises jurisdiction over the fund, the authority to sign the documents founding the corporation.

"We simply did not get it agreed in time in parliament," he told IZVESTIYA's correspondent. "I think we will get things together this week and we will sign the treaty."

Some experts see this technical hiccup as a political maneuever. The same one that is preventing Russia and Ukraine from agreeing on many other questions, beginning with Crimea and the Black Sea Fleet. But corporation president Nikolay Mikhaylov reckons that, despite certain difficulties, Ukraine is objectively interested in signing the documents founding the corporation. An ABM space umbrella and employment in that sphere would also be to its benefit.

At any rate, "Vympel" specialists claim, the interstate joint-stock company will be operating. In Russia there are plants that will be able to reorganize production to meet defense science orders, not right away, but in two to three years. It will be more difficult, obviously, for the major production associations in Dnepropetrovsk, Nikolayev, and Lvov...

Media

ITAR-TASS Carries Press Review for 27 May

LD2705055592 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0439 GMT 27 May 92

["Press Review"—ITAR-TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow, May 27 TASS—"I am not concealing the difficulties and I want the people to realise that", Russian President Boris Yeltsin told the Wednesday's [27 May] KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA. The main idea expressed in the interview was probably that "the difficult thing is, problems emerge faster than we get time to resolve them. And here lies the hardness in transition from a totalitarian society to a democracy. We must release tensions beforehand, otherwise the society will turn to strikes".

Speaking about the forthcoming liberation of fuel prices, which will lead to the general worsening of living standards, Yeltsin said he was sure the difficulties were of a temporary nature. "Prices will go down later, when market begins functioning", Yeltsin claimed.

To prove the necessity of a rapid reform, Yeltsin said "had the reform been introduced at a slower pace, the same (Communist) Party structures, which are now reappearing, would have inevitably taken power."

Describing the situation in Moldova and, particularly, President Mircea Snegur's assertions that Russia was launching a full-scale intervention there, Yeltsin said that was "not Russia's intervention, that was the act of protecting people who live there at the initiative of officers who also live there".

Speaking about Crimea, he said "Russia must not stay on the outside", but there should be no war with Ukraine. "That is a crime, and no one will forgive us for that." According to Yeltsin, "Ukraine will remain within the CIS after all."

Speaking about the elimination of weapons, Yeltsin said that "strategic nuclear weapons will only remain within Russia".

Yeltsin also mentioned his position regarding the International Monetary Fund. IMF "cannot dictate our policy", Yeltsin said. "We can listen to their advice, we can take something into consideration, but there will be no dictate."

The Dniester region issue took the leading place in KRASNAYA ZVEZDA and NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA. The former denied Snegur's accusations that "Russia's 14th Army is on the side of the separatists (Russians and Ukrainians living on the left bank of the Dniester)." The newspaper wrote "so far no one has reported any 14th Army soldier participating in combat actions." KRASNAYA ZVEZDA also wrote that to the north and south of the town of Dubossary, Moldovan police are being substituted by regular Moldovan Army units". [no opening quotation mark as received] NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA added that "the Dniester conflict has reached a dangerous stage when the word 'war' has been pronounced. And not the internal war (in Moldova), but between Moldova and Russia."

KRASNAYA ZVEZDA also described the creation of a military alliance between Russia and Kazakhstan and that Kyrgyzstan was ready to join the alliance.

NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA carried an exclusive interview of Turkish Prime Minister Suleyman Demirel with

ITAR-TASS correspondents, where Demirel stressed that "as never before, our two countries have received a favorable opportunity to cooperate for the benefit of our people." Demirel denounced Armenia's "expansionist policy" and bloodshed in Nagorno-Karabakh, Bosnia and Hercegovina. "We have agreed with Mr. Yeltsin that appropriate international sanctions be used against those countries, which oppose peaceful solutions of such problems", Demirel said in the end of the interview.

In a commentary on the hearings in the court of constitution, dedicated to the legality of Communist Party activity prohibition, a NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA analyst wrote that "the process of decommunisation in Russia will take a long time".

ITAR-TASS Carries Press Review for 28 May

LD2805061692 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0444 GMT 28 May 92

["Press Review"—ITAR-TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow, May 28 ITAR-TASS—Today's newspapers report in detail about Tuesday's [26 May] session of the Russian Constitutional Court which began examining whether President Boris Yeltsin's three decrees on the actual ban of the Soviet Communist Party and the Communist Party of the Russian Federation and the seizure of Party property are consistent with the Russian Federation Constitution.

The newspaper PRAVDA writes that "the court decided to adjourn the session to July 7, 1992 and also appointed persons who will represent the CPSU and the Russian Communist Party. They are Mikhail Gorbachev, Vladimir Ivashko and Vasiliy Kuptsov.

SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA and PRAVDA unanimously point out that the desire of the presidential side's coordinators to turn the legal dispute into a political trial is obvious. In addition, PRAVDA emphasises that "the absense of the working procedure does not now give the right to the Constitutional Court to decide whether parties, movements or other organisations had kept within the law."

"The first step has been taken," the trade union newspaper TRUD comments on the Constitutional Court session. "But one thing is clear already today: We will witness a protracted and possibly months-long process because the court has to examine volumes of previously classified documents, hear dozens of witnesses, experts and weigh up thoroughly all of the sides' arguments."

The situation in the Commonwealth's flashpoints continues to be in the focus of mass media attention. The army newspaper KRASNAYA ZVEZDA reports about the situation in Moldova. It writes that the Moldovan side does not cease attempts to project the 14th Army as a destabilising force that allegedly aggravates the tense situation in the Dniester region.

"The fuss around 14th Army units stationed on the left bank of the Dniester was conceived primarily to tie in advance the hands of Russian military men in case the Moldovan Army moves into the Dniestr region," KRASNAYA ZVEZDA believes.

"The road to peace in the Commonwealth's flashpoints is arduous and attempts to defuse armed conflicts in Moldova and Transcaucasia have so far been in vain," TRUD writes.

The independent NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA paper evaluates highly Russian-Turkish talks held within the framework of Turkish Prime Minister Suleyman Demirel's official visit to Moscow. It points out that "Russia and Turkey appeared to share views on the Karabakh problem." The decision "on the joint mediation efforts" of Russia and Turkey in the Karabakh conflict, which was made public on May 26, inspires optimism.

SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA carries an interview with Rear Admiral Georgiy Gurinov, chief of the Black Sea Fleet staff. He expresses profound regret that Russian-Ukrainian talks on the future of the Black Sea Fleet, which were scheduled to begin in the resort city of Dagomys on May 27, were put off. Gurinov emphasises that in his view such talks should begin "without delay." He said the Black Sea Fleet faces plentiful problems but, nevertheless, Navy men "will continue to display restraint."

SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA features an interview with Russian People's Deputy Svetlana Goryacheva who shares her thoughts about how Russia went through the two years that have passed since the declaration on the state sovereignty of the Russian Federation was adopted at the First Congress of Russian People's Deputies. She criticises the performance of the present Russian leaders accusing them of "breaking up the Union state." Goryacheva pronounced once again in favour of a single union, noting that Russia should become the initiator of its rebirth.

In conjunction with the Border Guards' Day observed today, KRASNAYA ZVEZDA publishes an interview with Lieutenant-General Boris Agapov, deputy commander-in-chief of the border troops. He speaks about problems faced by border troops today, noting that "following the break-up of the USSR, these troops found themselves in the complex situation in terms of the supply with everything necessary for the fulfillment of the tasks before them."

"At present, the future of the border troops of the Commonwealth member-states is defined in principle by the spirit and letter of the Commonwealth agreements on border issues," Agapov observed.

International Affairs

Further on Kozyrev's Visit to Lisbon

Meets With FRG's Kinkel

LD2405093992 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0724 GMT 24 May 92

[By ITAR-TASS special correspondent Georgiy Shmelev]

[Text] Lisbon May 24 TASS—Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev, here on an official visit, has met with his German counterpart Klaus Kinkel. They focussed on bilateral relations.

Kinkel said he attaches exceptional importance to German-Russian relations and intends to further the "Genscher line" in this respect.

The two ministers discussed in detail the tense situation in a number of parts of Europe, primarily in Yugoslavia. Kinkel voiced hope that Russia with its traditional contacts in the region would continue its peace-making efforts and would be able to achieve certain results.

Kozyrev informed his German counterpart of his recent trip to the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and republics of the former Yugoslavia and of his intention to continue the working trip to the region immediately after the end of the Lisbon forum.

As far as the situation in Nagorno-Karabakh is concerned, the Russian minister said he does not feel that "The conflicting sides there are prepared for any compromise". The two ministers agreed about the need to actively utilise CSCE mechanisms and expedite preparations for a Minsk conference on Nagorno-Karabakh.

The two ministers also considered the course of preparations for a Group-of-Seven meeting in Munich. Kinkel said a special envoy of the German Government will arrive in Russia soon to discuss matters connected with the preparation of the G-7 meeting.

The German foreign minister raised an issue concerning the destiny of former East German leader Erich Honecker. He said that as the minister of justice he had personally held talks with his Russian counterpart Nikolay Fedorov on the issue.

"As soon as an opportunity arises and Honecker leaves the Chilean Embassy in Moscow and gets to Germany, he may count on a judicial examination with full and faithful observance of all legal norms and the rules of a civilised state," Kinkel said.

Kozyrev invited the German foreign minister to pay an official visit to Russia at his convenience.

Meets With Baker

LD2405172492 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1614 GMT 24 May 92

[By ITAR-TASS special correspondent Georgiy Shmelev]

[Text] Lisbon May 24 TASS—Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev and U.S. Secretary of State James Baker had a conversation at the U.S. Embassy in Portugal. The leaders of the foreign policy departments of the two countries participated in the Lisbon international conference on aid to newly independent states of the CIS that ended on Sunday [24 May].

Questions of the concluding stage of the preparation for Russian President Boris Yeltsin's official visit to the United States and summit meetings to be held in Washington in June, a set of disarmament problems, and the situation in the trouble areas in Europe, above all in Bosnia and Hercegovina, were discussed during the conversation.

On 'Party Revanchism' Threat

LD2405233992 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1900 GMT 24 May 92

[Text] Speaking at a news conference in Lisbon on 24 May, Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev said that although profound democratic transformations are taking place in the country at the current time, in all spheres of society's life the threat of party revanchism in Russia remains. Kozyrev told journalists about the meeting of the Constitutional Court scheduled for 26 May. As is known, the court is to decide the issue of the CPSU, whose functioning has been banned by decree of Russian President Boris Yeltsin. However, the head of the Russian foreign policy department explained, it is not a matter of persecution for communist convictions. The existence of several procommunist groups in Russia serves as corroboration of this. The illegal state structure which usurped power in the country is banned, Andrey Kozyrev stressed. It should be prohibited. There is no place for it in the life of our society.

Talks Detailed

PM2705102592 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 26 May 92 Morning Edition pp 1, 4

[Report by Maksim Yusin: "Aid Again Promised in Lisbon to CIS Countries"]

[Text] Lisbon-Ljubljana—The agenda for Russian Foreign Minister A. Kozyrev's talks with U.S. Secretary of State J. Baker 24 May in Lisbon was in many ways unexpected. Instead of a discussion of regional conflicts—the situation in Yugoslavia, where A. Kozyrev was to go immediately after meeting with the secretary of state, and in Nagorno-Karabakh and the Dniester region—almost the entire 90 minutes for which the talk lasted were devoted to the preparation of B. Yeltsin's visit to the United States.

In the few weeks remaining before the visit it is necessary to elaborate a draft agreement on further reductions of strategic arms which are to be signed by B. Yeltsin and G. Bush. Whether Moscow and Washington will succeed in such a short time in resolving the remaining contradictions remains questionable.

"The members of our delegation assert that the positions of Russia and the United States since the March meeting in Brussels have become substantially closer and it may be hoped that the treaty will be ready for signing by the time of B. Yeltsin's visit. This optimism is explained also by the fact that an end has finally been put to the uncertainty with regard to the nuclear missiles deployed in Kazakhstan, Byelarus, and Ukraine. In Lisbon on 23 May, the foreign ministers of these three republics, J. Baker, and A. Kozyrev signed a protocol to the treaty on strategic offensive arms. Ukraine, Byelarus, and Kazakhstan undertook to accede to the treaty on the nonproliferation of nuclear weapons and in fact admitted that Russia remains the only nuclear power in the former USSR.

The last day of A. Kozyrev's stay in Lisbon was unusually full. In addition to J. Baker, he met with representatives of all three conflicting sides in Bosnia—Muslims, Serbs, and Croats. The minister believes that on the threshold of his visit to Sarajevo, where he hopes to go 26 May, these contacts were very useful, since they enabled him to hear the arguments of all sides. A. Kozyrev was encouraged by the fact that Serbs, Croats, and Muslims all welcomed our mediation in the Bosnian crisis. Although the minister considered it premature to speak of the specific initiatives with which he is flying to Sarajevo.

One more significant event of the last day of the Lisbon conference was the unplanned quadripartite meeting on the Dniester region, held at the initiative of A. Kozyrev and his Ukrainian counterpart A. Zlenko. The foreign ministers of Russia, Ukraine, Romania, and Moldova adopted a joint statement, calling for the observance of the accord on the cease-fire and the return of the armored vehicles of the 14th army to their stationing location. Unfortunately, it is unlikely that this document will have more effect on the conflicting sides than all the previous documents, which neither the Moldovans nor the Dniester people are in any hurry to fulfill. The participants in the Lisbon meeting could not fail to recognize that the situation in the conflict zone is gradually getting out of the control of the states directly or indirectly involved and that the diplomats' field of activity is narrowing.

In conclusion, a few words about the conference itself, devoted to aid to the CIS countries, for which delegations from 63 states met in Lisbon. It proceeded evenly and smoothly, with no special surprises. There will be aid, although no specific decisions were made, or indeed could be made. The ministers came to Lisbon to hear each other's opinions and to describe their potential and requirements. As was to be expected, the requirements of some considerably exceeded the potential of others.

On the evening of 24 May, A. Kozyrev flew from Lisbon to continue his tour of the former Yugoslav republics, which was interrupted last week. On 25 May his visit to Slovenia began. After talks with the leaders of that republic and the signing of a protocol on the establishment of diplomatic relations, the minister will go to Croatia, where he will stay until the morning of 26 May. On 26 May, A. Kozyrev will try to get through to Sarajevo from Belgrade by helicopter, and on 27 May, he will complete his tour with a visit to Macedonia.

Further Reportage on Kozyrev's Yugoslav Visit

Bosnia Visit Viewed

PM2805084592 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 28 May 92 Morning Edition p 5

[Report by Maksim Yusin: "Opposing Sides in Bosnia Accept Kozyrev Plan"]

[Excerpts] Sarajevo—The agreement on a cease-fire in the vicinity of Sarajevo airport, reached by the Serbs and Muslims who are the main players in the bloody conflict in Bosnia and Hercegovina, was supposed to come into effect at 0600 hours 27 May. This agreement was the concrete result of Russian Foreign Minister A. Kozyrev's tour of former Yugoslav republics. [passage omitted]

The visit to Sarajevo, which Kozyrev had prepared so long for, lasted only a few hours. This time the weather smiled on the Russian minister: The fog which had prevented him from reaching Sarajevo last week had dispersed. It took Kozyrev one hour to fly in a Yugoslav army helicopter from Belgrade to Sarajevo. To be precise, to a small airfield on the territory of a military unit a few kilometers from the city. The Russian delegation went to Sarajevo itself in armored personnel carriers belonging to the French contingent of UN forces. Kozyrev's talks with [Bosnia-Herzogovina President] A. Izetbegovic took place to the accompaniment of endless gunfire—the sound of assault rifles and machineguns carried from the nearby mountains, and from time to time the air was rent by heavy artillery and mortar fire. By local standards, it was comparatively calm in the city. Although the signs of devastation were visible everywhere. Entire districts are being raked by sniper fire, so people are afraid to venture out onto the street. The windows of many houses have been blown out by explosions. Residents who were unable or unwilling to leave are in a desperate state: Stores are not trading, food is only being distributed by special coupon, and there is no water even in the headquarters of the UN peacemaking force.

Will Kozyrev's efforts bring the long-awaited respite in the war-torn republic? Answering journalists' questions a few minutes before he left for Sarajevo, the minister said that he was "cautiously optimistic" about the prospects of a settlement. There are many reasons for caution. The chief problem is that the armed groupings active in Bosnia have, to a considerable extent, gotten out of control. Members of the Russian delegation very much fear that the Serbian extremists will not observe the peace accords, despite the fact that the leader of the Bosnian Serbs Karadjic, in Lisbon, and Serbian President Milosevic, in Belgrade, gave Kozyrev public confirmation that they support his peace plan. Indeed, on the morning of 27 May a shell exploded in the center of Sarajevo, near where people were standing in line for bread. Innocent victims again....

On 27 May Kozyrev ends his tour by visiting Macedonia. The Russian minister will have talks with President K. Gligoric and with other leaders of the country, which has not yet been officially recognized by the EC, the United States, or by Russia.

Meets Macedonian President

LD2705180492 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1739 GMT 27 May 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Aleksandr Kondrashov and Georgiy Shmelyov]

[Text] Skopje May 27 TASS—Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev met Macedonian President Kiro Gligorov today, in what was the final event of his working tour of former Yugoslav republics.

Before the talks, Gligorov praised the importance of Russian recognition of Macedonia's independence, stressing that the republic was prepared to develop bilateral ties, especially in trade and culture.

The talks focused on bilateral relations.

At a press conference after the meeting, Kozyrev characterized the talks as "very warm, business-like and constructive". The fact that a Russian foreign minister was the first to visit the new sovereign state is natural and appropriate, Kozyrev said.

"We are connected by traditional ties of friendship and cooperation, spiritual and cultural closeness. This is transparent in any Macedonian city or village," he said.

"We will be basing our relations with Macedonia on a completely different footing. Most of our talks in Skopje was devoted to these very issues. Special attention was paid to discussing economic cooperation," he said.

"We thank the Macedonian leadership for eventful and constructive talks, which demonstrated a common approach to problems, facing Macedonia," he said.

Asked if Russia has recognized Macedonia, Andrey Kozyrev said, "we are establishing relations with all sovereign states of the former Yugoslavia. We are basing our position on the recognition of all republics of former Yugoslavia. We regard Macedonia as one of the states with which Russia hopes it can build friendly, allied relations."

Macedonian Foreign Minister Denko Malevski said that Macedonia and Russia are opening a new page in their cooperation, based on democracy, pluralism and respect for human rights.

"We view Russia as an ally and friend," he stressed.

Macedonia respects current borders in the Balkans and supports peace and stability in the region, and opposes resolving disputes by force, he said.

"Our goal is Balkans without borders, this is how we should enter Europe without borders," he said. He thanked Russia for a consistent and principled policy as regards recognizing the new sovereign state.

Kozyrev also met Archbishop Gavril of Orchid and Macedonia to discuss religious communities and believers' life. Gavril presented Kozyrev with a bible in Macedonian.

Comments on Yugoslav Trip

LD2805055892 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0443 GMT 28 May 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Georgiy Shmelev]

[Excerpts] Moscow, 28 May—Andrey Kozyrev, minister of foreign affairs for the Russian Federation, returned to Moscow from Skopje (Republic of Macedonia) late on 28 May after visiting the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and independent states of the former SFRY. He also took part in the international conference on assistance to the independent states of the CIS in Lisbon. [passage omitted]

In a conversation with journalists on board the plane on his flight home, Andrey Kozyrev, answering a question from an ITAR-TASS correspondent, expressed his satisfaction with the fact that he "was able to do everything to help Serbia and the other former SFRY states find a way out of the crisis, not under any kind of pressure or in the form of concessions to threats from the outside, but as a result of an appearance of their own goodwill." He noted that it was possible to create a basis for the development of genuinely friendly relations with all six republics of the former Yugoslavia.

The numerous meetings at various levels with the foreign ministers of the United States, Canada, and European states, Andrey Kozyrev also noted, shows that Russia's efforts to make its own contribution to settling the Yugoslav crisis is finding complete understanding and support.

Regarding the negative side of the visit, he said, there is an impression, unfortunately, that forces which do not understand good concern and advice are active in the region. It seems that they count only on force superiority, and yesterday's events in Sarajevo are evidence of this.

In the next few days, the Russian minister stressed, it is necessary to make active and specific efforts in the region to stop the continuing bloodshed there on the basis of agreed upon principles such as the recognition of the territorial integrity and sovereignty of states, the renunciation of ethnically pure areas, the protection of rights of national minorities, and others.

Rutskoy Comments on Dniester Conflict

LD2005020492 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1600 GMT 19 May 92

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] Vice President Rutskoy stated today that the problem of the Dniester region can be resolved only by turning Moldova into a federation. Otherwise, said Rutskoy, Moldova's future is that of Yugoslavia.

Ministry on Moldova, Latvia, Azerbaijan

PM2505144992 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 22 May 92 First Edition p 7

[Unattributed report: "From Russian Foreign Ministry Reports"]

[Text] The Russian Federation Foreign Ministry is gravely concerned about the sharp exacerbation of the situation around the city of Dubossary in the Republic of Moldova, which has resulted in the loss of human life. The situation is further complicated by the fact that combat operations, which have already caused tremendous damage to the environment, are being conducted in the area of Dubossary Hydro-Electric Power Station, posing an enhanced ecological danger.

We are most resolutely urging the sides involved in the conflict to adhere unswervingly to the agreement on a universal cease-fire in accordance with the 6 April 1992 Chisinau Declaration by the foreign ministers of Russia, the Republic of Moldova, Ukraine, and Romania, and the mutual withdrawal of armed formations which, apart from anything else, is essential for the safe entry into the disengagement zone by military observers from the four countries, which, as we know, was agreed by both sides in the conflict.

The Russian Federation Foreign Ministry is lodging a resolute protest with the Latvian Republic Embassy regarding the armed attack launched 14 May this year by members of the Latvian Home Guard [opolchenetsy] against a group of unarmed Russian servicemen who had been carrying out inspection and maintenance work on border troop communication cable lines in the vicinity of Riga.

As a result of this provocation, Private N. Pylayev was wounded in the leg, and the remaining servicemen were detained under threat of armed force, and were released only after the border district command protested to the Latvian Republic Home Guard Divisions' leadership.

The ministry warns that henceforth the Latvian side will bear full responsibility for the possible consequences of such actions.

The ministry is also demanding a thorough investigation into the crime against the servicemen which was committed by the Latvian home guardsmen 14 May, punishment for the guilty, and compensation for the material and moral damage caused to Nikolay Vladimirovich Pylayev—Russian citizen, born 1973—and for the damage done to military property.

Recent events in Azerbaijan were viewed with great alarm and concern in Russia. It is satisfying that efforts are now being made to reinforce the trend toward a drop in the level of hostility. The Russian leadership is banking on political wisdom and a considered approach in the Azerbaijan authorities' future actions.

The Russian Federation Foreign Ministry welcomes the latest declaration on guaranteeing equal rights for representatives of all nationalities living in Azerbaijan.

Envoy to Moldova Calls For Cooperation

OW2505160792 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1505 GMT 25 May 92

[From reports compiled by diplomatic correspondents I. Porshnev, V. Shishlin, and others; from "Diplomatic Panorama" (DP); transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] As DP [Diplomatic Panorama] learned from well-informed sources in Russia's Foreign Ministry, a prominent Russian diplomat, Vladimir Plechkol whom President B. Yeltsin appointed as Russia's Ambassador to Chisinau, will present his credentials to Moldova's leadership this week.

"I stand for diplomacy that would help people understand each other better", V. Plechko told DP's correspondent. Russia and Moldova, he said, must "search together for a way out of the complicated situation they found themselves, or might find themselves, in".

According to the diplomat, "an urgent solution" is demanded by the military, as well as by the economic and social problems that exist in relations between Russia and Moldova. V. Plechko intends to give top priority to tackling these problems.

With reference to the conflict in Trans-Dniester V. Plechko said that it's not too late to stop it yet. According to him, an important role in this can be played by cooperation between Moldova, Russia, Romania and Ukraine, cooperation that is already beginning.

Further on Military Withdrawal From Kurils

Yeltsin Comments

OW2705140192 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1323 GMT 27 May 92

[From "Diplomatic Panorama"; transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] *** The withdrawal of Russian military bases from the Kurils can be effected within a year, not within ten years, as the military used to claim, said President Boris Yeltsin of Russia in his interview for the daily "KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA" published today.

Under an agreement reached with the Commander-in-Chief of the Joint CIS Armed Forces Marshal Yevgeniy Shaposhnikov "our division will be withdrawn, with only frontier troops and coast guard ships remaining there", the president said. "A final solution to the problem can be reached neither in 1993 nor in 1994, of course, though it's desirable to sign a peace treaty with Japan in 1993", B. Yeltsin pointed out.

There is an impression that the Russian leadership's attitude to the problem of Northern Territories and the approach of certain generals sometimes fail to coincide, a member of the Japanese Embassy in Moscow told DP's [Diplomatic Panorama] correspondent. He referred to a statement made by Major-General Vladimir Boruchenko, new commander of the Pacific Frontier District.

Speaking in Vladivostok recently at his first press conference given in the new capacity, V. Boruchenko emphasized that he doesn't view the Kuril Islands as a disputed territory. "The Kurils will continue to belong to Russia. Otherwise historic justice will be abused, and a dangerous precedent will be created for other territorial claims", said V. Boruchenko.

In an interview for DP's correspondent a prominent member of Russia's Foreign Ministry who specializes in relations between Russia and Japan said that he views Japan's fears as ungrounded. According to him, it's politicians, not the military, who determine this country's policy and its approaches to resolving one problem or another. "This relates in full to the South Kurils problem; V. Boruchenko received no new directives in this connection", the diplomat said.

According to him, the territorial dispute with Japan is "extremely complicated and many-sided". "Had the problem been simple, it would have been possible to voice only one attitude to it," the diplomat said.

He warned against the habit of considering "each new statement on the territorial dispute as deviation from the mainstream policy."

"Controversial comments concerning the destiny of four South Kuril islands only reflect the complexity of the current process of negotiations which, as a matter of fact, should not be dramatized", the diplomat said.

Spokesman Comments

OW2205132292 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1242 GMT 22 May 92

[from "Diplomatic Panorama"; transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] At today's briefing S. Yastrzembskiy touched upon the plans to demilitarize the South Kuril Islands. He referred to a statement by President Boris Yeltsin in which the Russiain leader mentioned his striving to reduce the number of Russian servicemen stationed there.

"This striving is by no means connected with contacts concerning the territorial dispute. It was prompted by general considerations as to the need to reduce Russia's excessive military presence", he said.

According to S. Yastrzembskiy, the President's statement "concerned long-term, not short-term, plans". "At the moment the possibility of cuts in the number of troops and total withdrawal of servicemen from the South Kurils is only under consideration", the spokesman for Russia's Foreign Ministry pointed out.

Burbulis on Formulating Position on Kurils

OW2205203292 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1904 GMT 22 May 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Moscow began the intensive preparations for the Russian-Japanese summit meeting. Russian State Secretary Gennadiy Burbulis told "IF" [INTERFAX] that the preparations were begun to develop "a full-fledged, widescale, and long-term conception" of bilateral relations.

Responding to a question on the possibility that ownership two of the four disputed Kuril Islands will be transferred, Burbulis said that "we still do not have a final answer to that question. We hope to decide the issue on the basis of international law. We are aiming to the most correct form in order to overcome the inheritance we received as a result of drawn out and unsolved problems in relations between Japan and the Soviet Union".

Afghan Release of USSR POW Reported

Kozyrev Praises Release

LD2305035792 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1745 GMT 21 May 92

[Text] Moscow, 20 May (ITAR-TASS)—Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev has expressed his deep satisfaction over the release of POW Fateyev, and the fact that he has been turned over to the Russian Government. He expressed his gratitude to the leaders of Afghanistan for this humane step. The Russian side, the minister said, has no doubt that the Afghan authorities will keep the promise they gave during my visit to Kabul.

A.V. Kozyrev put special emphasis on the words of Afghan Defense Minister A. Mas'ud that this gesture on the Afghans' part is only the first step and that it will be followed without delay by other concrete actions by both sides.

Spokesman Remarks on Release

OW2605133192 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1235 GMT 26 May 92

[Report by diplomatic correspondents I. Porshnev, V. Shishlin, and others; from "Diplomatic Panorama"—transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The new Afghan leadership doesn't link the release of Soviet prisoners of war to the payment of reparations by Russia, said Mikhail Tretyakov, spokesman for Russia's Foreign Ministry.

Speaking on Monday [25 May] at a news conference in Moscow held in connection with the release of the former Soviet serviceman Sergey Filatov from captivity in Afghanistan the Foreign Ministry spokesman emphasized that Moscow views this step "as the first in a series of such actions". "We believe the Afghan leadership understands that this is a purely humanitarian problem", the Russian diplomat said.

S. Filatov's release became possible thanks to a mission of Andrey Kozyrev who went to the Afghan capital earlier this month for a working visit. That was the first contact of Russia's Foreign Minister with the new Afghan leadership.

"Kabul understands that democratic Russia doesn't bear direct responsibility for the criminal policy of the former USSR toward Afghanistan", a prominent Foreign Ministry official who specializes in relations with Afghanistan told DP's [Diplomatic Panorama] correspondent.

Nevertheless, he said, the problem of aid to Afghanistan in restoring its economy devastated by the war does exist. "And it must not be ignored", the Russian diplomat pointed out .

Former Afghan President Seeks Asylum

PM2605134992 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 22 May 92 Morning Edition pp 1, 5

[Report by Mikhail Kozhukhov: "Karmal Applies To Go to CIS. They Are Not Letting Him in Yet"]

[Excerpts] Babrak Karmal, former president of Afghanistan who came to power in the country in 1979 as a result of a Soviet special forces' operation, has been trying to get into the CIS for more than a week now, but he has been refused permission so far. [passage omitted]

"There are no formal obstacles to their entering the CIS," a senior Russian Foreign Ministry official to whom we turned for an explanation told your IZVESTIYA correspondent. Wishing to remain anonymous, the official said that Karmal and his retinue have a memorandum asking for entry visas to be issued which was drawn up by the Afghan Foreign Ministry office in Mazar-e Sharif, a city near the border with the CIS. Visas could be issued on the basis of it, but, according to him, a telegram had arrived in Moscow disavowing all previous memorandums and containing an appeal to refrain from issuing visas.

Our interlocutor gave to understand that that is not the sum of the problem. Uzbekistan has closed its border with Afghanistan, halting the movement of people through the Hayraton checkpoint. This is the main obstacle to the Afghans' entry. "Legal regulation is required to resolve the complex problem of border protection. We want to operate cautiously," the Russian Foreign Ministry official believes.

"It is true that movement through the Hayraton checkpoint is restricted until the Afghan situation stabilizes," R. Raymov, chief of the Uzbek Foreign Ministry Consular Department, confirmed. "But Uzbekistan is erecting no obstacles to the entry of Karmal and his retinue. We are prepared to admit them, if Russia confirms that it is prepared to receive them.

To sum up the talks with the two independent countries' foreign ministry officials: There are no obstacles, but there is no confirmation of readiness either. Why is this? Evidently, either Russia or Uzbekistan is frightened of complicating relations with the new Kabul authorities. However, the Islamic government of Afghanistan has declared an amnesty for all "yesterday's people," so there would seem to be no grounds for such fears.

Admittedly, there are some difficult problems in relations between the two component parts of the CIS, including control over the once common, but now Afghan-Uzbek, border. Certainly, these problems need to be resolved, but while there are people out there asking us for asylum?

Edgy Afghhanistan, still suffering the after effects of war, is not Germany, demanding the extradiction of yet another of our former close friends. The amnesty declared by the mujahidin for all supporters of the collapsed "people's power" is as yet no guarantee of security in a country where the grief of thousands of people is urging revenge. And this should be taken into account.

Of course, one can have various ideas about the appropriate course of action—raise the checkpoint barrier to Babrak Karmal in Hayraton or leave them under lock and key. However, by declaring itself the USSR's legal heir, Russia has inherited its debts, both material and moral. Debts, as we know, must be paid.

Very likely some people, not without reason, will consider these people to be criminals, whereas others will see them more as victims of Moscow's policy. Clearly, it is for the Afghans themselves to decide. And if they are prepared to let them go anywhere in the world, then it would be strange for us to adopt a "holier than the pope" attitude. Or—more to the point—holier than the Prophet Muhammad.

India 'Assured' on Continued Rocket Aid

LD2505175792 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1731 GMT 25 May 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Alexander Vinogradov]

[Text] New Delhi May 25 TASS—"Russia has once again assured India that it will honour the contract on the sale of cryogenic rocket technology, despite opposition by the United States," U.R. Rao, chief of the Indian space programme told reporters today.

The project is proceeding as planned, he said.

By 1995 India will be able to build its own cryogenic engines and will be able to put satellites into orbit on its own, Rao said.

Gaydar Meets With Estonian Prime Minister Vahi

Discuss Debt, Currency

OW2305175892 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1633 GMT 23 May 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Estonian Prime Minister Tiit Vahi and Russian First Vice-Premier Yegor Gaydar had a meeting in Moscow today at which they discussed the payment of the foreign debt of the former USSR and Estonia's plan to introduce its own monetary unit, the kroon.

Gaydar said the introduction of the kroon should be tied in with the payment of the Soviet foreign debt and that the two sides should discuss in future schemes for pensions, maintenance and other forms of joint payments. He stressed the necessity of ruling out the discrimination against Estonia's "nonnative population" as these problems were being solved.

An officer from the Central Bank of Russia who took part in the meeting pointed out two main obstacles to Estonia's introduction of its own currency: the absence of an agreement on the amount of rubles remaining in Estonia and the absence of a specific date for the introduction of the kroon. Gaydar said in this connection that "it would be convenient for Russia if the kroon were introduced in July, at the same time as the ruble was made convertible."

The Estonian side proposed drafts for four documents regulating economic relations between the two countries.

Estonia and Russia decided to form a joint group to handle various problems involved in Estonia's introduction of its own currency. It was also decided to set up a large Estonian-Russian joint venture with probable participation of foreign capital.

Vahi on Economic Integration

MK2605180392 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 26 May 92 p 3

[Interview with Tiit Vahi, Estonian premier, by Vitaliy Portnikov, under "Visit" rubric; date and place not given: "Estonian Premier Has Met With Gaydar: Tiit Vahi Favors Integration of Estonian and Russian Economies"]

[Text] [Portnikov] Mr. Prime Minister, how satisfied are you with the results of your visit to Russia?

[Vahi] I am very satisfied with this meeting. This is my second meeting with Yegor Gaydar and other members of the Russian Government in my capacity as prime minister. We discussed the question of Estonia's withdrawal from the ruble zone: We are going to introduce our own currency and conduct a money reform. I think that we have settled the main problems. Only a few technical questions remain, but they can be resolved. I would call the next question a strategic one. I believe that our states must continue to be closely integrated, especially economically. I think that we must tap the potential that exists in Estonia—for transit trade, for example. I am thinking here of our ports above all. Of course, there are different types of potential: some are obvious, others quite the reverse. Some are expensive, others cheap. Ports could be built in Arkhangelsk and St. Petersburg, I know about those projects. However, they need to be built, whereas we already have ports in existence—the new Tallinn and Baltic ports. The things that people have created by their own efforts must be utilized purposefully, intelligently, and efficiently in the interests of all people and all states. I support the process of Estonian and Russian economic integration. We have quite a few enterprises which receive raw materials from Russia, and we sell virtually all our output in what is now the Russian state. Of course, we could scrap it all and start from scratch, but we should ask whether that makes sense. I support the emergence in Estonia of the kind of commercial structures which would contain Estonian, Russian, and Western capital, so it would not be sensible to disregard the integration processes taking place in the world.

[Portnikov] "Special interest groups" are now being formed within the CIS which Estonia is watching as an outsider. One of those groups deals with the position of Russia and the Central Asian states, another with the position of Ukraine, Byelarus, and Moldova. These groups have different ideas about degrees of economic autonomy. Which position is closer to yours?

[Vahi] State independence has always been in Estonia's interest. That condition is now being observed. But the Estonian economy needs contacts with many regions. Some regions are of interest, others are not. Estonia has 1,600 joint ventures with Western capital—very many of them involving the nearby states of Finland, Sweden, and Germany. There are enormous interests here which can very soon be realized. Now for Russia. I believe that we should look at the map and see what joint interests there are. As for Ukraine, Byelarus, and the Baltic republics, we have an interest here, too. In the Baltic we have already created a single visa zone and a single customs zone. The Baltic region has very good strategic potential and we, as statesmen, must help to realize that potential. We are interested in very close contacts with Ukraine and Byelarus, and I believe that in the future, treaties on free trade will be concluded with those countries.

[Portnikov] In Russian political circles there has been much talk recently about problems facing the Russian-speaking population in Estonia....

[Vahi] Estonia has received many delegations, some from the Council of Europe, to investigate some of the claims made against us and they have in fact, established that all the necessary international norms are being observed in Estonia.

Of course we have a problem with citizenship. Our policy in that regard has become more realistic. We are looking for the best option.

[Portnikov] Is your position understood in the Supreme Soviet and the Congress of Citizens of Estonia?

[Vahi] I think that common sense prevails there. In a pre-election campaign period, of course, you find various views, but the overall state policy does not differ from the ideas I have expressed.

[Portnikov] How concerned are you about the presence of troops from the former Union on Estonian territory?

[Vahi] An independent state, of course, cannot consider it normal when another state's troops are stationed on its territory. On the other hand, there are no interstate agreements to specify a timetable for their withdrawal. That is our first problem. A delegation is now working on it, and I think it is about time to resolve it. I am aware of the difficulties, especially in regards to social security, but on the other hand, Estonia already has very many garrisons with no personnel, just sentry detachments. This process must be initiated and tension removed, which would serve to strengthen ties in other spheres.

[Portnikov] Your predecessor, Edgar Savisaar, was first and foremost, a politician. People speak of you as the head of a cabinet of specialists....

[Vahi] No cabinet can be apolitical. Of course, specific problems arise at each stage. The question of Estonia's independence has been resolved at state level, now Estonia's economy must be built up and the difficulties of the present economic situation surmounted, which is one of the main problems facing politicians, too. On the other hand, I do not think that on foreign policy we are in any way inferior to the former government and the former prime minister. In the past three months I have had contacts with many prime ministers: I have received the Finnish prime minister in Estonia, I have been to Sweden where I met with the prime minister, I have been to China, and I am going to Japan. In addition, the Luxemburg prime minister has visited Estonia. Can the previous government say that it had such close contacts with the heads of other states as I have had in such a short period? Where we differ is that I prefer to get results rather than talk about them.

[Portnikov] There is an election campaign in progress in Estonia. Is it not a problem for you that the government looks as though it is a caretaker one?

[Vahi] The election campaign will always influence the situation. We ourselves say that ours is a caretaker government, but only in the sense that we want the dyarchy in Estonia to end and normal elections to be held as soon as possible. We do not deny that we have a very good government program and very many supporters. Perhaps that is why our caretaker government will continue in office after the elections, too?

Rutskoy Appeals to Latvia for Officer's Release

LD2305190792 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1800 GMT 23 May 92

[Text] The RIKA agency reports that Russian Vice President Aleksandr Rutskoy has appealed to Latvian Supreme Soviet chairman Anatolijs Gorbunovs to free Parfenov, the former special-purpose police officer, who is under arrest in Latvia, out of humanitarian considerations.

Joint Latvian Talks on Troop Withdrawal Open

LD2705024992 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian 1731 GMT 26 May 92

[Text] The Latvian Embassy in Russia told the government information service that the delegations at today's talks between Russia and Latvia agreed that the Russian Army's withdrawal from Latvia must be examined first. The Russian representatives recognized that the troops' withdrawal was not directly connected with the observance of human rights in Latvia; however, they also pointed out that both these problems could not be separated from one another and that an indirect influence exists. Therefore, it was proposed to examine the question of human rights in this round of talks. The Russian delegation submitted a three-stage schedule for a gradual withdrawal of the army and a continuation of the withdrawal even until 1999. The Latvian delegation firmly defends the standpoint that foreign state troops must completely leave Latvia by the autumn of next year. The talks will continue 27 and 28 May. As the

Russian side proposed, working groups on 27 May will discuss socioeconomic questions and the Russian troops' stay in Latvia.

Kozyrev Addresses Latvian Rally in Moscow

PM2705155392 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 14 May 92 First Edition p 7

[Vyacheslav Yelagin report under the "Human Rights" rubric: "You Have to Fight for What Is Yours"]

[Excerpts] A picket was set up outside the Russian Foreign Ministry building recently. It was organized by representatives of the Russian-speaking population in Latvia. The action was intended to draw attention to the continuing discrimination against Russians in Latvia and spur our leaders to greater efforts in their defense.

Despite his busy schedule, Andrey Kozyrev came out to the rally and invited the participants to discuss their demands. He assured his interlocutors that the Foreign Ministry would give their compatriots every support.

Perhaps the most important diplomatic step taken by the Russian Foreign Ministry in recent days was the circulation of a memorandum in Strasbourg during a session of the Council of Europe ministerial committee. In this document, our foreign policy department officially expresses concern over the position of the Russian-speaking minority in the Baltic republics.

It could not be otherwise. The defense of Russians living in states and countries contiguous to Russia is now becoming a priority task of Russian foreign policy. This aspect of the Foreign Ministry's activity is now even more important in light of the criticism directed at it at the Sixth Congress of Russian People's Deputies—for its inadequate efforts to defend the interests of the Russian population in the former Soviet republics. While acknowledging this criticism to be just, we should nevertheless stress that the Foreign Ministry is not sitting idle. It consistently introduces various forms of legal defense for citizens, using diplomatic and consular methods, and responds promptly to cases of discrimination against Russians living outside the country, military servicemen included. However, diplomatic channels alone are clearly not enough. There must be an adjustment of efforts on a countrywide scale.

According to A. Kozyrev, the methods of defending human rights and interests do not exclude tough measures, including the application of levers of force. Moreover, Russia's policy arsenal includes appropriate international mechanisms, which have obviously not been brought fully into play. It is another matter that Russia cannot assume the role of protector in relation to persons of Russian origin who take the citizenship of the country in which they reside. One of the Russian leadership's headaches is caused by legislation on citizenship adopted by the Baltic countries (for example, the Latvian Supreme Council Law "On Amendments and Additions to the Law on Languages" and the Estonian Supreme Council Resolution "On Bringing the Law on Citizenship into Force"), which blatantly infringes the political, cultural, social, and property rights of the Russian-speaking population. [passage omitted]

Prominent Norwegian expert A. Eide, who has carried out research in Latvia and Estonia on the instructions of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, has described the legislation on citizenship as a threat to democratic development. In his opinion, the domestic situation in Latvia and Estonia and their relations with Russia have deteriorated considerably as a result of laws on citizenship being adopted. The expert does not agree with the Baltic republics' attempts to portray the Russian-speaking population as occupiers and immigrants. Some foreign political scientists claim that the policy adopted by the Baltic countries' leaders toward the Russians could destabilize the domestic situation in Russia, and also in other CIS states, and damage the beginnings of collaboration between the West and the former Soviet republics.

Migration Committee Observer Status Granted

LD2705171692 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1138 GMT 27 May 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Boris Shabayev]

[Text] Geneva May 27 TASS—The Russian Federation and Latvia were granted the status of observer states at the Intergovernmental Committee for Migration (ICM). The decision was taken at a special meeting of the ICM council on Wednesday [27 May].

The same status was granted to Morocco, Sao Tome and Principe, Slovenia and Croatia. Zambia, France and Uganda became full-fledged ICM members on Wednesday. This international organisation now unites 46 member states and 34 observer countries.

The growing interest of various governments in the ICM activities shows both the importance of the mission performed by this organisation and the growing need to concert efforts to tackle the migration problem, its director general James N.Purcell noted.

The director general who visited Russia early in May, pointed to the attention the Russian parliament and Government pay to migration problems.

Mindful of the mutually recognised need to draft efficient measures to prevent uncontrolled migration flows, the ICM compiled a draft of technical aid to Russia in the migration policy and is looking for a possibility to finance it.

Talks With Lithuanian Delegation Open 26 May

OW2605183092 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1354 GMT 26 May 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] On May 26, the official delegations of Russia and Lithuania are meeting in Moscow. Brought to the agenda of their meeting is the issue of the withdrawal of the former USSR troops from the territory of Lithuania.

According to the Lithuanian Embassy in Moscow, the Lithuanian delegation is headed by the minister without portfolio Aleksandras Abisala, while the Russian by Viktor Isakov, the government's special ambassador. Following the completion of the talks this Wednesday [27 May], the parties plan to hold a press conference in the Lithuanian Embassy.

*** On May 26, in the vicinity of Moscow, the state delegations of Russia and Latvia are continuing the discussions of problems of their bilateral relations, the Latvian delegation being headed by the country's state minister Janis Dinievic, and the Russian by Sergey Zotov, the government's special ambassador.

The Latvian Embassy in Moscow informs Baltfax that the talks are focusing primarily on the withdrawal of the former USSR troops on the territory of Latvia. Among the other issues are the problems of property and ownership, and the status of the Russian-speaking population in the republic. The talks are expected to continue until May 28.

Vilnius 'Appears Unprepared'

OW2605212392 Moscow BALTFAX in English 2025 GMT 26 May 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Vilnius appears unprepared to discuss the Russian proposals at the bilateral talks, said Special Ambassador Viktor Isakov in his interview for Baltfax this Tuesday [26 May]. Viktor Isakov who heads the Russian delegation at the talks maintains that his Lithuanian opposite numbers were eager to address only the military issues, particularly, the withdrawal of all the Russian-jurisdictioned troops from the Republic by the end of 1992.

In the words of Viktor Isakov, the Russian delegation proposed that the participants of the talks concentrate on a broader scope of problems, including economic, humanitarian issues, and the situation of Russia's Kaliningrad Region. "The need to discuss these issues has been predetermined by the Agreement between Russia and Lithuania which went into effect on May 4," said the Russian diplomat.

According to Viktor Isakov, the Russian delegation brought forward its draft agreements relating to some of these issues and nominated the officials who would take care of their realization.

The talks are expected to resume this Wednesday [27 May]. At 5 p.m. on May 27, in its Embassy in Moscow, the Lithuanian delegation will hold a press conference re the results of its talks with Russia.

Troop Withdrawal Talks Continue

LD2705120792 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 0500 GMT 27 May 92

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] Talks between Russian and Lithuanian state delegations are scheduled to end in Moscow 27 May. The main subject of the talks is the withdrawal of the former USSR's troops from the republic. As you know, these troops are now under Russia's jurisdiction.

The Russian side intends to put forward its own plan for the withdrawal. Details are not known. However, Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev has put forward the following scenario: 40 percent of the troops should be withdrawn by the end of 1994 and the rest later. Lithuania is pressing for a totally different schedule: all the troops should be withdrawn by the end of this year.

The talks will show to what extent it is possible to bring closer these diametrically opposed positions.

Talks End

LD2705165592 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1617 GMT 27 May 92

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Aleksandras Budris]

[Text] Moscow May 27 TASS—State delegations of Russia and Lithuania at talks on May 26 and 27 in Moscow could not set a date for their next meeting. "The Lithuanian side had the ability to discuss only the subject of withdrawal of troops of the former USSR from the republic," chief Russian negotiator Viktor Isakov told ITAR-TASS.

The Russian delegation was prepared to discuss the entire range of bilateral issues, Isakov said.

As a result of the meetings the procedure for further talks was practically fully agreed upon and an agreement was reached to appoint in the nearest time groups of experts to prepare bilateral agreements in concrete spheres and hold meetings, he said.

Isakov expressed hope that the next meeting of state delegations will be held this month.

At this stage of talks "the sides moved forward very little", chief Lithuanian negotiator Aleksandras Abisala told reporters today.

The Russian delegation failed to submit a schedule for the troop withdrawal from Lithuania and without this it is impossible "to discuss technical details of the withdrawal", he said.

Abisala said he regretted that the sides did not discuss compensation for damages incurred by the 50-year-long stay of the troops in Lithuania.

The damage is estimated at about 150 billion dollars and Lithuania is prepared to be compensated by hard currency and weapons.

Reports on Units Transfer to Lithuania Denied

LD2605183692 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1735 GMT 26 May 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Roman Zadunayskiy]

[Text] Moscow May 26 TASS—Any transfer of large military units from Russia to Lithuanian territory is out of the question.

Only soldiers, who have completed the term of their military service, will be replaced by new draftees in order to provide for normal routine of the north-western group of forces, a representative of the Russian Defence Ministry's press center told ITAR-TASS today.

A reason for the statement was a report of some mass media on the Lithuanian leadership's concern over alleged transfer of large Russian troops to Lithuanian territory.

The representative stressed soldiers are replaced to prevent the situation when there will be none to guard armament and materiel storages.

The withdrawal of the major groups of Russian forces from the territory of the Baltics is planned to be done after the completion of withdrawal of troops from Germany and Poland.

The final term of withdrawal will be established during negotiations between delegations from Russia and the Baltic states.

Baltic Forces Withdrawal Schedule Corrected

PM2205193592 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 23 May 92 Morning Edition p 8

[Report by Russian Federation Defense Ministry Press Center: "Timing of Troop Withdrawal from Baltic States' Territory Will Be Decided at Talks"]

[Text] There was an inaccuracy in the report on the first session of the Russian Security Council published by IZVESTIYA (No. 117). Citing Army General P.S. Grachev, defense minister of the Russian Federation, the report maintains that the withdrawal of Russian troops from the territory of the Baltic states will be completed in 1994. In actual fact, when talking with the newspaper's correspondent, Army General P.S. Grachev reported that it is planned to withdraw the main groupings of Russian troops (forces) from the territory of the Baltic states after the completion of the withdrawal of units and combined units from Germany and Poland. At the same time, the necessary infrastructure has to be created at the new points of stationing—primarily the construction of housing.

It is proposed to withdraw 40 percent of the troops from the territory of the Baltic region during 1992-1994, and the remaining 60 percent after 1994. The timing will finally be decided on during the current talks among state delegations from Russia, Latvia, Lithuania, and Estonia.

Report on Missile Unit Withdrawal 'Premature'

PM2505132792 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 21 May 92 p 1

[Captain Second Rank V. Gromak report: "Shore-Based Missilemen Remain in Ventspils for Now. They Will Leave When Ordered"]

[Text] Baltic Fleet, 20 May—The report carried a few days ago by RIA that a Baltic Fleet missile battalion had been withdrawn from Ventspils to Kaliningrad Oblast was somewhat premature. As Captain First Rank Nikolay Kuchma, assistant to the commander of fleet shore-based troops, said, only one train carrying needed technical stores has arrived at a related unit in Kaliningrad Oblast. All the personnel and equipment remain in Ventspils. Where they will be withdrawn to and when is still an open question. No decision has yet been made on this score by the Russian Government or the Russian Defense Ministry.

Grachev Says 7th Army To Withdraw From Armenia

OW2205173292 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1636 GMT 22 May 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev has told newsmen in Moscow his country is unable to meet the Armenian request for continued presence of its 7th Army on Armenian territory. He said that on Thursday [21 May] in Yerevan he and Russia's Secretary of State Gennadiy Burbulis, on the one hand, and the Armenian leaders, on the other, worked out a stage-by-stage scenario for the pullout of the 7th Army. Men of the 1st Rifle Division would start withdrawing from Armenia on July 1, and, the Minister said, since Armenia was a party to the Commonwealth's collective security treaty, it would be building its own armed forces on the basis of the 7th Army.

A reporter asked General Grachev whether, in case of Turkish interference in the Transcaucasian conflict, Russia was prepared to meet its obligations under the Collective Security treaty and offer military assistance to Armenia. The Russian Defense Minister said that as far as he knew, Turkey had no intention of warring with anyone.

Details of Delegation's Armenia Visit Reported

PM2805090392 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 26 May 92 p 1

[Armen Khanbabyan report: "Russian Army Stays in Armenia"]

[Text] Yerevan—The 21 May visit to Armenia by a Russian delegation headed by State Secretary G. Burbulis was an event in the republic's sociopolitical life. The delegation included Russian Defense Minister P. Grachev, First Deputy Foreign Minister F. Shelov-Kovedyayev, Russian Federation parliamentary deputies, experts on economic and defense questions, and diplomats.

Taking part in the talks, which covered a wide range of issues, were Armenian President L. Ter-Petrosyan, Supreme Council Chairman B. Ararktsyan, and Prime Minister G. Arutyunyan.

Agreement was reached on continuing and developing economic cooperation.

It was decided that the Russian Army would remain on Armenian territory, and the republic agreed to provide the necessary social and consumer living standard for the servicemen and their families. Admittedly, Grachev added that henceforth, Russian soldiers would be sent to serve in Armenia only if they volunteered, and the timetable for the Russian Federation Army's stay in the republic would depend to a considerable extent on the domestic political situation in Armenia itself. In the event of a sharp destabilization in the situation Moscow might withdraw its troops. At the same time, it was decided that the Russian Army and the emergent Armenian Army would cooperate closely on questions of safeguarding collective security within the CIS framework.

Members of the Russian delegation also hinted that they take a very negative attitude toward talk of the possible introduction of Turkish troops into the Nakhichevan Republic. In the opinion of Burbulis and Grachev, it is absurd to even raise this question, and military intervention by a third force in the Armenia-Azerbaijan conflict is impossible.

Economics Minister Attends Tokyo Symposium

LD2305170292 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1415 GMT 21 May 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vladimir Solntsev]

[Text] Tokyo, 21 May—Russian Economics Minister Andrey Nechayev believes that probably the most important intermediate result of the reforms policy conducted by the present Russian Government is the fact that "perhaps, for the first time in the last decades, money in Russia has begun to work in real terms." He was speaking at a symposium held in Tokyo today, which was organized by the Japanese-Russian Trade Association. About 300 Japanese businessmen and leaders of republics, krays, and oblasts in Siberia and the Far East participated in its work.

The minister admitted that the situation in the country is very difficult at present; prices have gone up by 10-12 times compared to the beginning of last year, and the living standards of some strata of the population has notably diminished. At the same time, one of the main achievements of the economic reforms is the fact that the government, which has conducted a tough—and even according to some, cruel financial and credit policy directed at restricting budget expenditure—has managed to carry out a liberalization of prices, having avoided the danger of hyperinflation.

Pointing out that at present, constructive policy comes to the forefront in Russia, Nechayev noted that the speed of implementing major structural changes in the Russian economy depends to the extent it is possible to attract large-scale foreign investments. "At present the stake should be made not on foreign credits but on direct investments in the form of joint enterprises, as well as enterprises with 100 percent participation by foreign capital," he said, having noted that the Russian Government is actively creating legislative and legal foundation for this.

Among the priority spheres for attracting foreign capital, the minister mentioned the extraction industry—in particular oil and gas, conversion of the Russian defense industry, development of the agricultural complex—primarily private farms, and also a market infrastructure, including communications, a banking system, and systems for processing and transmitting information.

According to Nechayev, the level of economic relations between Russia and Japan "is several degrees lower than both countries could have expected." This is in relation not only to the volume of Japanese credits, which are much less then those offered even by such countries with significantly lower economic potential than Japan, such as Italy and Spain. This also relates to the volume of mutual trade turnover and to direct investments.

The minister also came out in favor of concluding a package of inter-government agreements with Japan in the very near future, including agreements on the elimination of dual taxation and mutual protection of investments, which would enable foreign capital in Russia to operate according to accepted world rules. Such an agreement has already been signed with Finland. An agreement has been prepared with the United States, and it is expected to be signed during President Yeltsin's visit to the United States. Unfortunately, he said, work in this direction with Japan is proceeding much slower than we would have liked.

According to the Russian minister, the practice of supplying traditional raw materials to Japan is absolutely unjustified since the Japanese economy requires them less and less, and this type of interaction must be replaced by cooperation in another sphere. He pointed in particular to the possibility, based on the example of a number of Asian states, of the transportation to Russia of production facilities based on Japanese technology which would provide an opportunity for the export of ready-made output to third countries.

Yeltsin, President Akayev on Aid to Kyrgyzstan

LD2505160592 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1546 GMT 25 May 92

[Text] Moscow May 25 TASS—Russian possible aid to Kyrgyzstan in cash money and medicines was in the focus of discussion between the presidents of the two former Soviet republics on Monday [25 May].

Boris Yeltsin and Askar Akayev agreed the relations between the two countries should reach a higher political level in light of the processes of gaining independence by the former Soviet republics, the press service of the Russian president said.

Moscow Movement Collects Aid for Dniester

LD2405090492 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1914 GMT 23 May 92

[Report by ITAR-TASS correspondent Elena Semenova]

[Text] Moscow, 23 May—The first major batch of medical supplies was delivered on 22 May to the Dniester Region from Moscow, a Dniester Region radio correspondent reports from Grigoriopol. A truckload with 500,000 rubles' worth of medication and bandages arrived in Tiraspol today. It was collected at the initiative of the Trudovaya Moskva [Working Moscow] movement.

The collection of medications and the fund-raising to buy them to help the Dniester region population is going on at Trudovaya Moskva Headquarters. Anesthetics and pain-killers in ampules are still in short suppy. However, 50,000 rubles have been raised, several dozen cases of antibiotics, individual first-aid kits, bandages, and bottles of Dexpanthenol for burn relief are ready to go. Tens of thousands of Moskovites have already contributed to this humanitarian action. Aid is supplied by collectives of Moscow enterprises, cooperatives, scientific research centers, individuals in the medical profession, Cossacks, and students. Palestinian students at Moscow higher educational establishments have contributed 10,000 rubles to the support fund for the defenders of the Dniester region.

U.S. Begins Food Aid Deliveries via Finland

LD2505203392 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1303 GMT 25 May 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Aleksandr Surikov]

[Text] Helsinki May 25 TASS—The United States has started deliveries of food aid to Russia via Finland. As noted by today's issue of the newspaper "HELSINGIN SANOMAT" in a report from the town of Kouvola, the food is being transported via the Finnish railway. It has to carry a total of 18,000 tonnes of food aid. This will require 500 railway cars. The aid will be distributed primarilly among hospitals, child welfare establishments, asylums for the aged. As many as 78 cars with U.S. food have already left for Russia. Aid to Russia from the economic community was earlier delivered by the same route.

Finland was chosen for transit carriages because it is the only West European nation that has a railway gauge of the same breadth as that in Russia. Hence, the passage of cargoes over the Finnish-Russian border is not linked with any technical difficulties.

ROK Talks on Energy Resources Cooperation End

Minister on Cooperation

SK2505074092 Seoul YONHAP in English 0546 GMT 25 May 92

[Text] Seoul, May 25 (YONHAP)—South Korea is to invest in working oil and coal fields in Russia, and may invest in developing new deposits, in return for a share of the output.

In connection with this, a plan is under review to set up a Korea-Russia energy resources cooperation fund with money from oil refineries and other energy-related firms interested in resources development in Russia.

On Monday [25 May], at a news conference in Moscow, Energy and Resources Minister Chin Nyom said: "At two rounds of Korea-Russia energy ministers talks, Russia formally called for Korea's investment in some of their existing energy and mineral facilites in addition to investment in new energy development."

Russia wants Korea to invest the equivalent of 800 million U.S. dollars in its existing energy facilities.

Given the inter-supplementary structure of the two countries in the areas of energy and resources, the Russian offer was attractive, Chin said, according to a ministry spokesman in Seoul.

"Upon my return home, I will consult with related offices to map out concrete resources cooperation plans," he said.

Russian officials reportedly said existing energy production facilities where Korea could invest in number about 1,000, including the Yumin oilfield in western Siberia.

Russia needs foreign investment in its facilities. Energy production has declined because the facilities are aging and lack proper equipment, aggravating the shortages of energy.

"I told Russian officials Korea would positively study raising funds for investment in Russia's energy facilities. In addition to investment in new energy exploration, this kind of investment would be a favorable way for us to secure resources," Chin was quoted as saying.

Further Comments

OW2705214492 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1925 GMT 27 May 92

[From the "Interfax Business Report"; transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Russia and South Korea have agreed to establish a bilateral committee on energy and industry, South Korean Minister of Energy and Fuel Resources Yi Hui-il reported in an interview with Interfax. The committee will coordinate activities for the joint development of oil, gas, coal, and copper deposits in Russia. In the near future Russian fuel exports to South Korea are expected to increase to several times current levels. Now that the joint committee has been set up, South Korean state organizations will be able to participate actively in this realm, the minister said.

Yi Hui-il also announced plans to set up an international consortium to organize the extraction of natural gas in Yakutia and the subsequent supply of that gas to South Korea. Financial guarantees for the project may be provided by the governments of the two countries, as well as various international financial institutions.

In 1991 South Korea imported a total of $15 billion in energy resources, including approximately $100 million from Russia.

ROK Prepared To Partially Unfreeze Loan

OW2705223292 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1927 GMT 27 May 92

[From the "Interfax Business Report"; transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] South Korea is prepared to unfreeze $900 million of $3 billion loan in the near future if the Russian government will take responsibility for the loans South Korea issued to the Soviet Union in 1991 and settle the issue of interest payments, an expert who participated in recent talks between Russia and South Korea told Interfax.

South Korea offered the Soviet Union a $3 billion loan in early 1991, several months after the two countries established diplomatic relations.

According to the credit agreement, the Soviet Union was supposed to receive $1 billion in unrestricted bank credits, $1.5 billion in tied loans earmarked for commodity purchases and a $500 million investment credit over a period of three years. In the first stage the Soviet Union was to receive $1 billion in cash plus a $800 million tied commodity loan. The second stage was to begin in 1992 with a $700 million tied loan. Then in 1993 South Korea would provide the remaining $500 million to fund imports of South Korean industrial equipment and machinery.

In 1991 the Soviet Union received a $1 billion bank loan and purchased $473 million in South Korean goods out of the first $800 million in credits earmarked for commodity purchases. But by the end of the year South Korea froze the entire $3 billion loan in response to the dissolution of the USSR and the Vneshekonombank's insolvency crisis.

Over the past three months Russia and South Korea have held a series of negotiations in Seoul and Moscow with representatives from Russia's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Finance Ministry, and Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations. South Korea initially insisted that Russia guarantee that the 1991 credits would be paid off and that Russia pay back interest on the first $500 million by May 18, 1992.

But Russia took the position that its own share of the $1 billion loan was only slightly more than $600 million: according to an agreement between the former Soviet republics, Russia's share of the USSR's external debt is approximately 61% of the total debt.

During the latest round of negotiations held in Moscow recently, Russia agreed to take full responsibility for paying back the $473 million earmarked commodity credit, since the overwhelming majority of those goods went to the Russian Federation. The Russian delegation also said that it was prepared to guarantee that Russia will pay off the bank loans if some or all of the remaining former soviet republics refuse to fulfil their responsibilities to their South Korean creditors. This move was made in accordance with the principle of collective responsibility of the former Soviet republics for the Soviet Union's external debt.

After South Korea receives a letter from the Russian Finance Ministry guaranteeing that the Russian government will pay back the loans (the Finance Ministry has already agreed to provide South Korea with this letter of guarantee), Korea is prepared to unfreeze the remaining $327 million in 1991 tied commodity credits and provide Russia with 75% of the two remaining credits: the 1992 commodity credit and the investment credit for 1993. New South Korean credits to Russia would then total $900 million ($525 million of $700 million in 1992 commodity credits and $375 million of $500 million in investment credits). South Korea will offer the remaining credits to other Commonwealth countries.

The main problem, however, remains the issue of how the former Soviet republics will make interest payments on the South Korean loans. Commonwealth countries failed to make interest payments on the first loan by May 18. If this problem continues in the future, then reports in the South Korean press that Commonwealth countries will offer Korea goods or concessions for developing mineral resource deposits in order to pay back the loans may prove to be true.

Federation Affairs

Yeltsin on Ukraine, Moldova, Military

PM2705121192 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 27 May 92 p 2

[Interview with Russian President Boris Yeltsin by D. Muratov, Yu. Sorokin, V. Fronin in Moscow 23 May 1992: "Boris Yeltsin: I Am not Hiding the Difficulties and I Want the People to Understand This"]

[Text] **The Time Frame**

[KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA] Boris Nikolayevich, if you would briefly, in a word or two, tell us from which actions, taken since last August, you would now refrain?

[Yeltsin] I would say, on the contrary, we should have acted more resolutely since August. That is the point!

[KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA] In other words, August should have been immediately followed by December, as it were?

[Yeltsin] Yes, August should have been followed by December.

Prices, Wages, and Strikes

[KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA] On New Year's Eve you promised Russians that the situation in the country would improve toward the end of the year. You have no wish today to retract any of those promises?

[Yeltsin] No. I said back at the time of the Russian presidential campaign that the end of 1992 would see the beginning of stabilization in the economy. I did not simply say that the situation would improve. First, you get the stabilization of the economy and then, as a consequence, improvement in people's lives. I still maintain that position. I do not hide the difficulties. I simply, honestly, and openly told the people what lies in store for us.

We now face an increase in the price of oil, gas, and coal. This is inevitable, because enterprises cannot operate with such prices—they are unprofitable and subsidized. We are not freeing the prices of oil and gas completely for the time being, that is dangerous. But even a fixed, phased increase will still lead to an increase in all other prices—metal, commodities, and food. That is inevitable, and I want people to understand this.

After the Sixth Congress I toured the north of the country—Arkhangelsk, Mirnyy, Plesetsk, and Severodvinsk, and Cherepovets—and went to a metallurgical combine where there were tens of thousands of people. And I said to them: Prices will still go up. But the ultimate lever exerting influence upon the process of rising prices will thereby be brought into play, as it were. Stabilization, albeit at a high level, should then ensue. Then, when the market has begun to work, prices will start to fall.

As far as reform as a whole is concerned, that is a different matter—here, of course, you cannot confine yourself to 1992. The reform cannot be completed in a single year, the changes it contains are too extensive for that. And those of us in the government are seeking to maintain the strategic guideline, as it were, and define the stages: What can be done now, what in three years' time, and what is possible only after 10 years. We have had to go through this most critical period of 1992. And I think that we are now perhaps past the most dangerous point.

We are now taking the next step.

[KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA] Are you able to forecast pretty confidently today what a standard loaf of bread will cost in the new year?

[Yeltsin] The prices for certain kinds of bread are fixed, as you know. We think this fixed price must be retained for those on low incomes. The price of other kinds of bread will, clearly, still increase.

We are often accused of deception. Yet, as early as three months before the reform, I told the congress that the reform would lead to higher prices.

[KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA] And wages?

[Yeltsin] I do have some statistics here. The average wage for the country as a whole was 1,438 rubles [R] in January, R2,004 in February, and R2,705 in March. In March 1992 the average wage was 8.2 times greater than in March 1991. But the prices for goods and services bought by the population rose 13.6 times, if you compare March last year with March this year. Wages rose by a factor of 8.2, prices by a factor of 13.6. A substantial difference. But let us compare March with February: In March wages rose 0.32 times, while prices rose 0.30 times. That is, since March a certain trend toward diminishing the wage-price gap has started. Monetary income has begun to increase more quickly than prices. Admittedly, it varies in different sectors. And the situation in the nonproduction sphere is very disquieting. I have already said that I went to the north of the country after the congress; I talked with people and saw that, even in today's conditions, people are in favor of the reforms. People have not lost faith. The fact that a very serious financial situation afflicts the budget-financed sectors at present is another matter. That is one of our mistakes from the point of view of timing: We should have increased wages there a little earlier. But we failed to anticipate this.

[KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA] And the teachers, physicians....

[Yeltsin] Yes, teachers, physicians, the militia, the Army, television, and so forth—in general, those paid out of the budget. They all find themselves at the wrong end of the wage bracket. A few days ago I again signed a decree on another increase in payments—a very sizable one, it must be said. Every child will get a monthly supplement—especially to cover increases in the prices for childrens' goods. This decree will ease tension a little bit. But health care and public education are all the same in a difficult situation at present. Although, according to all the calculations, we will meet the increase in incomes by a factor of 2.6, as promised in Decree No. 1.

[KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA] The last time you called the people out on a general strike was in August, from atop a tank in front of the White House. You upheld working people's right to strike while still a member of the interregional deputies' group. How do you regard strikes today, now that you are president?

[Yeltsin] I can still recall 30 April and 1 May 1991, when I traveled to Kemerovo. The miners were about to go on strike. In the evening I discussed everything with them and set up a conciliation commission; and when we met up again in the morning, they told me: We won't be striking. In other words, you can come to agreement. And I say today: A right is a right, and it must not be removed by force. Some people say that the presidential form of rule is dictatorship and that Yeltsin will start banning strikes. No, we operate by other methods. Take the strikes by medical personnel, we set up a tripartite conciliation commission comprising representatives of the government, the trade unions, and the strikers. They discussed the conflict situation throughout the health care service and found a solution! They brought me the decree, I signed it, and the matter is settled. And how many times have we resolved likewise the conflict with Aeroflot air traffic controllers! The difficulty is that the problems spring up more quickly than we are able to resolve them. Therein lies the difficulty of the rapid transition from totalitarianism to democracy. We must seek to remove tension in good time so that the whole of society does not launch itself into the strike movement. This is not always successful. Unfortunately.

Who Will Head the Government

[KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA] Is it true that, after Gaydar, Grigoriy Yavlinskiy is the next candidate for chief of economic reform? Are you planning any changes in the composition of the government?

[Yeltsin] There has been no talk of Yavlinskiy. As for Gaydar, I think that Gaydar is a godsend. He is a godsend in the sense that in our country, the country of the old self-perpetuating system [strane zatsiklennoy staroy sistemy], people are in many respects not even adaptable to something different, either in an economic sense or through their experience of life. Yes, it is a shortcoming of Gaydar, that he has no industrial experience. But maybe that is the main condition—reform does not stifle him. If he was the former director of a major plant, he would not be able to carry out reform. He would be weighed down by the burden of his previous experience all the time: That must be done, and so must this, and that.... The government reorganization is intended primarily to simplify the sphere of industrial management. We set up 24 departments which to all intents and purposes duplicated the former ministries. And, of course, they again started pressuring enterprises. Directors are unhappy about this—I met with them a few days ago. Therefore we are planning that ministries will retain only their functional duties, ruling out the possibility of direct pressure on production. You have no right to issue orders. You should study the market, price formation, and the external sphere, seek customers in the foreign market, study scientific and technical progress, and so on. These are the functional duties of ministries in civilized countries. But when anyone can phone up and ask why you produced less than usual yesterday—that is something that must be ruled out.

We have outlined several replacements in the government personnel. I would not like to name names in advance, although this will take place very soon. The government really does lack industrialists—that criticism is just. I proposed that Khizha be appointed—he is a major industrialist, a very intelligent man, and he has been a general director in St. Petersburg, and recently Sobchak's vice mayor. Khizha has given his agreement. As government deputy chairman he will now head the whole industrial sector. There has never been such a deputy chairman in the government before. We need another two deputy chairmen who would look after other sectors. Today Gaydar is working 20 hours a day, but even so he is not managing to do everything.

As for the question of the chairman of the government—I was unable to leave this post any earlier. We needed to get through the Sixth Congress of Deputies, otherwise the government, forgive me for saying so, would have been gobbled up. I would wait another few months—by then, I think, the figure of the premier will take on a more definite shape. Whatever people may say, Gaydar has a strong team behind him. A very close-knit, young, and bold team. Admittedly they lack experience of dealing with people. But who had heard of Gaydar six months ago? Now Russia, the CIS, and the whole world knows who he is. I think that in another six months you will assess his entire line in a totally different way from today.

[KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA] Do you have an action plan with regard to the Congress of Deputies and the Supreme Soviet?

[Yeltsin] This is one of the most complex questions. And it is not even a question of relationships. Ultimately, when something fundamental appears, I go to the Supreme Soviet and we decide the matter—however difficult it may be. (Although I believe that I should not stay at the Congress for two weeks running). There is a different point to consider. This is the first time I have officially talked about it in the press. I believe that, given our Russian traditions, given the problems of the transitional period, and given the reforms that are in progress, we need to introduce the presidency. Of course, there is a separation of powers taking place between the legislative, executive, and judiciary. The Constitutional Court is in operation. This, of course, is a democratic process. But democracy—as is the case in France, for instance—does not rule out the presidential form of rule. We have only one way of achieving this—doing everything quickly and rapidly. Otherwise the forces which are now grouping around what could be called the former party apparatus, will be deployed in such a way that it will be very hard to combat them. They are currently speculating on our difficulties and posing as the people's champions. They claim that they are in favor of the people and that we are against the people. But this is just a cheap stunt.

On Corruption

[KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA] You have signed a decree on combating corruption. You are probably aware of cases of corruption among quite highly placed officials. You have fired the governor of Voronezh even though he was your friend. You have fired the governor of Pskov. What new cases have now emerged?

[Yeltsin] Barannikov will be seeing me today with a number of major cases which are ready to go to trial. But you will realize—since these are criminal trials—that it is too soon to be talking about them. But these are cases involving hundreds of millions of rubles—bribes and so on. That is, the fight against corruption continues, although I am still not personally satisfied yet. There is no accurate information—it is being concealed even from Barannikov. Yesterday I met with administration heads: They told me that at local level certain KGB organs and former party workers are setting up new structures to which CPSU money is being transferred, as if for the future. This, of course, is very dangerous but, on the other hand, we have no wish to declare a terror campaign. We need to combat this using legal methods, but more actively. I believe that this decree on combating corruption was not without its shortcomings, to put it mildly. It was drawn up rather hastily and was intended more for short-term requirements than for the job in hand—because everyone was saying "they're not fighting corruption, they're not, they're not"... This decree was issued to get the ball rolling. And that is what it did: Yerin immediately brought me a few cases, but Barannikov said that they fell through [raskrutilis]. Now this work is proceeding, but I agree that we need the counter-corruption mechanism to work more accurately.

Will the Congress of People's Deputies Meet Again?

[KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA] Did you read Yuriy Vlasov's article "Coffin For Hire" in PRAVDA? What is your attitude to the fact that the authorities are coming in for more and more criticism?

[Yeltsin] I did read "Coffin For Hire." The article "raised" my spirits... Nikita Mikhalkov, Stanislav Govorukhin, and a certain section of the intelligentsia in general are getting more and more concerned and worried about whether we are on the right track. I would not reproach them for this, they are artists and that is their view as artists. I read Yuriy Vlasov and it gave me a heavy heart. But, on the other hand, what was he proposing? It was the same with those who spoke at the Sixth Congress: Somebody would propose something constructive about how to proceed. and they would say—go slower! But if reform had gone slower, the former party structures which are now developing once again would have long since seized power. We would lose out if we failed to move fast. We have to be quick before they can form up into a strike force. If we delay the reforms for many years, they will definitely try to end them completely. That is why I think that we should nonetheless hold a referendum as regards the Congress and the Supreme Soviet. I will turn first to the Supreme Soviet—with general constitutional provisions, the idea of the presidential form of rule, and...with regard to the Congress, and I will propose putting all this to a referendum. If the Supreme Soviet refuses, this will give me the right to appeal to the people, collect a million signatures, and hold a referendum. And then everything will be cleared up.

[KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA] And when will this happen?

[Yeltsin] We need to do everything by the fall, otherwise...As for afterward...I am sure that the Congress will never accept such a constitution.

The Russians in Moldova, Ukraine, and in the Baltic Republics

[KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA] What kind of assistance from Russia can the Russians living outside it count on?

[Yeltsin] We have underestimated this problem. We have not not worked out a specific position. We believe that we must avoid interference in the internal affairs of other states. But I am now convinced that we must nevertheless seek more active forms of influence on the situation—after all, our people, Russian people, our compatriots, are living there.

Of course I have been opposed, and will continue to be opposed, to the enforced use of troops. People often say to me now that the law under which the army cannot participate in ethnic matters and interethnic conflicts, must be repealed. But then we would create civil war. What for?

I would like to repeat once again that this may be one of our mistakes—we were rather late in assessing that Russia must not fail to have an influence on the position of the Russian-speaking population in other countries.

As for the position in Moldova, there are undoubtedly supporters of the Dniester region among the officers in the 14th Army, and they are beginning to go over to the Dniester region side, sometimes taking hardware. That is why Snegur, for example, is assessing this as direct intervention. But that is not intervention by Russia, that is the defense of people living there on the personal initiative of the officers living there. It seems to me that if the Dniester region wants autonomy, that is the affair of the people themselves.

Now the Crimea. We and Ukraine have a history of mutual relations stretching back a thousand years, and what will happen—will we now wage war? No one would forgive us this crime. My opinion is that we cannot adopt a decision on Crimea at the top—let us follow the logic of life and not stifle this life. Several months back I was saying that it would all lead to the present situation in Crimea.

[KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA] That is, you believe that Russia should take back the Crimea?

[Yeltsin] Russia should not be a bystander. I am convinced of that. But each time, depending on the situation, we need to find a way of influencing the situation so as to ensure that the interests of the different parties are observed. I am not very happy about all this pressure from one party and strident resolutions from the other. You will recall that we initially had problems in the Baltics too. But a solution was found—gradually, through talks. Some people have already been resettled, others have built housing, yet others have received dual nationality, and so on. Of course, not all questions have been settled. I have now confirmed some sizable special delegations for talks on a permanent basis with Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia, Ukraine, Moldova, Georgia, Azerbaijan, and Armenia. There may be friction and problems, but the solution to them—however painful—is being sought through talks.

The CIS, Borders, and Personal Relationships Between Presidents

[KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA] Quite honestly, you get the impression that many of the conflicts with Ukraine can be explained by your personal relationship with Kravchuk.

[Yeltsin] No, the satirist Zadornov has a bad attitude toward Kravchuk. Kravchuk and I meet and we talk normally. If we are not friends, we are at least people who understand each other. We talk constantly on the telephone... No, the fact is that complex processes are under way in Ukraine, and they influence the president.

In general you will not find any leaders with whom I do not have a normal relationship in any of the CIS countries. Or in the Baltics, incidentally.

[KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA] If Ukraine leaves the CIS can the Commonwealth survive?

[Yeltsin] I believe that Ukraine will remain in the CIS. People in Ukraine realize that for the time being it will be hard for them to survive, at least without Russia.

[KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA] For the time being?

[Yeltsin] Perhaps when they bring in their own currency that will be a turning point. Then difficulties will arise.

[KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA] The CIS still has no permanent coordinating organ.

[Yeltsin] I am in favor of such an organ. But Ukraine is opposed to coordinating organs. I think that our last meeting in Tashkent—the seventh—was the most successful. We discussed all the issues calmly. We signed an agreement on each point. I think that general coordinating institutions will gradually emerge.

[KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA] What will happen to borders?

[Yeltsin] Certain Central Asian republics have established relatively free border arrangements—with Iran, for instance. But no visas are required for travel from Central Asia to Russia, everyone can travel to Russia, we have no state border within the CIS. We cannot put ourselves in this position—this is a security matter. Therefore, we have warned that either you maintain the current system on the state border or we will move our state border further inland [po etu storonu]. In this event Russia will be forced to have its own state border. The only state asking for no border is Kazakhstan.

[KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA] Nakhichevan wants to open its border with Turkey.

[Yeltsin] I made the decision yesterday to withdraw the border guards. I phoned Kalinichenko (commander of the border guards—editor's note) and said "Withdraw."

[KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA] What about the nuclear weapons in Kazakhstan, Ukraine, and Russia? Is there a compromise solution to this problem?

[Yeltsin] Yes, there is. We have now signed an agreement with Kazakhstan: Over the next seven years Kazakhstan will transfer its remaining nuclear weapons to Russia for destruction—on the basis of a timetable agreed with Russia. Nazarbayev and I have signed this document, and he visited Bush and the United Nations with it. So everything is going to plan at the moment. The tactical weapons which were completely withdrawn to Russia were initially stockpiled. But now they have started to be destroyed at Arzamas-16 and Chelyabinsk-70. Strategic nuclear weapons will be left only in Russia.

[KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA] Boris Nikolayevich, who commands the army? And who commands whom among you three—do you command Shaposhnikov, does Shaposhnikov command Grachev, does Grachev command Shaposhnikov, or do you command the two of them?

[Yeltsin] We delayed the creation of the Russian Army and I think that was justified. Only after similar processes had gotten under way in other states did we decide to create an army. And Nazarbayev agreed to that. Shaposhnikov and I found a common language—I would put it like that. It wasn't for me to command him, for he had, after all, been confirmed by the heads of state of the whole CIS. Nevertheless a large part of the Army is in Russia. The Transcaucasus Military District (that is the 4th and 7th Armies) the 14th Army, the troops in the Baltic states, and the Western group of forces are all under the jurisdiction of Russia. We have more of the problems and questions relating to the army so we have to talk with Shaposhnikov and Grachev five or six times a day. So what we have here is not issuing commands but mutual understanding.

The situation has now changed. The new minister, Grachev, will operate independently and we will only discuss questions of strategic significance with Shaposhnikov.

Does Russia Often Say "Yes"?

[KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA] You hear it said that Russia says "yes" too often in international politics...

[Yeltsin] Look, Bush and I came up with the initiative for deeper bilateral cuts in nuclear weapons. They have more nuclear-tipped sea-launched missiles than us. The numbers should be equalized, but this is a question for negotiation. When have we said "yes" to Russia's detriment? When people say "we are selling off our national wealth" or "we are selling off Russia," I say—tell me what we have sold off. Show me anything—even if it is only worth a kopek. People say that we have sold ourselves to the IMF for $24 billion. We have not yet taken anything from the Americans—not a cent! This is still just a possibility, and later we will see how we can avail ourselves of this possibility without damage—in such a way that the debt is not handed down to our grandchildren.

[KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA] Why did you speak out so harshly about the IMF on 29 April? Gaydar signed the documents on the 27th, and on the 29th Yeltsin said that "nothing should be dictated to us." What caused this?

[Yeltsin] The program agreed with the IMF laid down that we should liberalize fuel prices in April. But we were unable to do this, so I said that the IMF cannot dictate our policy. We can listen, we can take certain things into account, but there can be no diktat. So far, we have agreed merely to a fixed price increase to take effect only from the end of May.

[KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA] Is a military alliance between Russia and the West possible?

[Yeltsin] If you mean NATO, then I believe that we need to go first of all for a political alliance as France did. That is a first step. Russia was with Europe from time immemorial and we need to integrate ourselves into European institutions—the Council of Europe, the EEC—and we need to enter into political and economic alliances. For the time being we will not enter into any military alliances.

[KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA] Your proposal on a five-stage settlement of the northern territories issue between Russia and Japan is well known. What is your view today?

[Yeltsin] I continue to advocate a five-stage solution to the problem. I emphasize—a solution to the problem.

I have visited the Kurils myself. The withdrawal of our military bases, from the military standpoint, will take around 10 years—the military stated this before. But now that we have analyzed everything, we have concluded that it could be done in the space of a single year. Shaposhnikov and I now agree that our division will be withdrawn from the Kurils and that only border guards and coastal defense vessels will be left behind. Of course, a final resolution of the problem will be impossible in either 1993 or 1994. Although we would like to sign a peace treaty with Japan in 1993.

Miscellaneous (In Brief)

[KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA] Is it true that you and Gorbachev have an agreement that he will take no part in domestic politics?

[Yeltsin] Yes, we sat at this table and he gave me his promise. As far as I am aware, promises should be kept.

[KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA] Do you often have dealings with Khasbulatov? Is he a carefully camouflaged ally or an opponent still to be reckoned with?

[Yeltsin] We meet when we have to. Usually if he or I have any questions we telephone each other and, incidentally, usually agree with each other.

When we meet we have an excellent relationship. Sometimes, of course, our views do not coincide. But that happens to all of us. But using the word "camouflaged..." about the Supreme Soviet chairman is, I think, simply impermissible.

[KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA] What will you do if the Constitutional Court rescinds your decrees banning the CPSU?

[Yeltsin] That is inconceivable [ne dopuskayu].

[KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA] Have you had any contact with any of the members of the State Committee for the State of Emergency? And, in general, are you following the case?

[Yeltsin] I am. But not to the extent of ever inviting [Russian General Prosecutor] Stepankov here. No, I have not had a single meeting with any of the members of the State Committee for the State of Emergency.

[KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA] Will you insist on Honecker's departure to beyond the borders of Russia?

[Yeltsin] To Germany—yes.

[KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA] Six months ago in an interview with British radio you said that your grandchildren were in great danger during the putsch. Do you think that you personally and your relatives are still in danger?

[Yeltsin] There are many threats now too. Although, quite honestly, I am fed up with my security, it is a necessary thing for a president. And, at the time, my grandchildren were indeed in a very dangerous position. They even barricaded the doors to their apartment...

[KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA] You knew about the development of bacteriological weapons in Sverdlovsk. But it was only recently that you first talked about it publicly. Why did you keep quiet all that time?

[Yeltsin] First, nobody asked me about it. And, second, when I learned that these developments were under way I visited Andropov...When there was an anthrax outbreak, the official conclusion stated that it was carried by some dog. Although the KGB had already admitted that our military developments were the cause.

Andropov phoned Ustinov and ordered these production facilities to be completely scrapped. I believed that this had been done. It turned out that the laboratories were simply moved to another oblast and development of the weapons continued. And I told Bush, Major, and Mitterrand this—that the program was under way...I signed a decree setting up a special committee and banning the program. It was only after this that experts flew out specially and stopped the work.

[KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA] Boris Nikolayevich, when you look back on Russian history, who do you feel closer to—Ivan the Terrible, Peter the Great, or Alexander II?

[Yeltsin] Naturally, Peter the Great. I think of him as a creator. But not without a tsar's failings, of course.

Will Yeltsin Run For A Second Term?

[KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA] Much is being said about the fact that there is no alternative to Yeltsin. But you yourself, do you think about the "post-Yeltsin" period?

[Yeltsin] This is one of the most difficult questions for me. Insofar as I find things so difficult I feel that I shall not extend my time artificially. No way. At least not longer than the period for which I was elected. I can say absolutely precisely that at the next elections when my term ends I shall not run. You know, there is a limit to both the physical and to the other potential of a person. Therefore, my main task now is to prepare the next period. We have already decided that we need specially to organize the training of leaders of state dimensions. That previously was not the case in Russia. For a start let us take 20 individuals but this has to be special training for the leaders of the future Russia. That sort of thing exists the world over. But we have always fought shy. So sometimes in our country random people would come to the surface. I believe that Russia is rich in talents. And a talented person will be found for Russia.

[KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA] In conclusion, Boris Nikolayevich, we are inviting you to take part in a "Direct Line" with KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA readers, as you did a year ago.

[Yeltsin] In June, as we agreed. Let us do that—after my visit to the United States.

Last Question

[KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA] Boris Nikolayevich, are you not sorry that the USSR no longer exists?

[Yeltsin] God knows that I took part in the Novo-Ogarevo process until the last minute and fought for the Union Treaty and its signing on the 20th [of August 1991]. God knows! So when people say that we destroyed the USSR they are wrong! The putsch destroyed it.

Yeltsin Representatives for Court Session Chosen

PM2705093992 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 25 May 92 First Edition p 1

[Unattributed report: "President's Representatives Appointed for Participation in Constitutional Court Session"]

[Text] By order of the Russian Federation president in connection with the Russian Federation Constitutional Court's hearing of an appeal by Russian Federation people's deputies for a review of the constitutionality of the RSFSR president's decrees No. 79 "On Suspending the Activity of the Russian Communist Party" dated 23 August 1991, No. 90 "On the Property of the CPSU and the RSFSR Communist Party" dated 25 August 1991, and No. 169 "On the Activity of the CPSU and the RSFSR Communist Party" dated 6 November 1991, Gennadiy Eduardovich Burbulis, state secretary to the Russian Federation president, and Doctor of Juridical Sciences Mikhail Aleksandrovich Fedotov, director of the Russian Agency of Intellectual Property, are to be appointed the Russian Federation president's representatives for participation in a session of the Russian Federation Constitutional Court in accordance with sections 2 and 3 of Article 36 of the RSFSR Law "On the RSFSR Constitutional Court."

By order of the Russian Federation president, it is prescribed that the state secretary to the Russian Federation president holds the position of the Russian Federation president's representative on Russian Federation organs of legislative, executive, and judicial power.

Burbulis Approves, 'Respects' Court's Decision

LD2705153292 Moscow Programma Radio Odin Network in Russian 1830 GMT 26 May 92

[Excerpts] Of all today's news, the item that has attracted most attention is the session of the constitutional court in connection with the Russian president's decrees banning the activities of the CPSU and the Russian Communist Party. [passage omitted] Mayak correspondent Olga Vasilenko, who has prepared a report specially for the New Wave program, will now give you details of the court's hearing. [passage omitted]

[Vasilenko] In the evening, Burbulis, Shakhray, and Fedotov, representatives of the Russian president, held a news conference in the Russian Government's press center. This is how Gennadiy Eduardovich Burbulis summed up the session of the constitutional court which took place today.

[Begin Burbulis recording] We were ready in the morning to prove the validity and the constitutionality of the president's decrees. The decision taken today permits us to considerably elaborate our position and to base it directly—more than seemed necessary yesterday—on the facts of the CPSU's and Russian Communist Party's activities in Soviet and Russian history. The constitutional court's decision to hold the next hearing in six weeks' time somewhat dampens our hopes. But we respect this decision, understanding that there should be no haste in this complex and important historical, political, and judicial issue; nor should there be any excess.

We think that, in present circumstances, the decision to inform Gorbachev, Ivashko, and Kuptsov that they have an opportunity to take part in the hearing on the side of the group of deputies who have put forward an appeal on the constitutionality of the CPSU and the Russian Communist Party, was judicially faultless. We think that given the situation, which is rather difficult and vague in the opinion of many professional jurists, the court has made a decision which is convincing from the judicial and social point of view.

News Conference Held

LD2705151692 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1600 GMT 26 May 92

[Text] We have just received this fresh report: Burbulis, Shakhray, and Fedotov, the Russian president's representatives at the constitutional court, said that the decison taken by the constitutional court today is brilliant and, from the judicial point of view, competent.

We will remind you that the constitutional court today considered the question of whether the Russian president's decree banning the activities of the CPSU is constitutional. The court decided to summon Gorbachev and Ivashko and other former CPSU leaders to give evidence.

The president's representatives stated at a news conference today that no one intends to institute criminal proceedings against any specific person. The aim is to demonstrate that since the CPSU has been obstructing Russia's reforms in its capacity as a state and party structure, its existence should be declared illegal.

We will give more details about this event in our subsequent programs.

Shakhray Cited on Hearing

MK2705140992 Moscow MOSKOVSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 27 May 92 p 1

[Report by V. Ignatov: "The Last, Decisive Battle: 'When We Say Party...' We Are Wrong, S. Shakhray Thinks"]

[Text] S. Shakhray has effectvely resigned as Russian state counsellor for legal policy. It emerged from the news conference in the Assembly Hall of the Russian President's State and Law Administration that Shakhray intends to focus his efforts on involvement in the Russian Constitutional Court. He will officially represent the Russian president in the examination which began there yesterday into whether B. Yeltsin's 6 November 1991 Decree "On the activity of the CPSU and the RSFSR Communist Party" accords with the Russian Constitution.

At the Constitutional Court session, S. Shakhray and his aides are planning a "last, decisive battle," to quote the now out of favor Internationale, against the former party nomenklatura's attempts to revive the "leading and directing party." Shakhray does not rule out the possibility that the question of the legal examination will be transformed from a "trial of the Russian President" into a "second Nuremburg trial."

In Shakhray's opinion, from the moment this organization came to power by force until the very last moment it was essentially not a party but a substitute for one which suppressed the constitutional organs of power. For example, the president's representatives have in their possession a USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium request to the CPSU Central Committee Politburo to ALLOW the election of some "comrade" to the post of deputy chairman of the chamber.

There is also documentary evidence that the CPSU had no qualms about picking the state's pocket whenever it wanted to. According to one document, for instance, the USSR Finance Ministry was OBLIGED to pay in hard currency the expenses incurred by the CPSU Central Committee administrator of affairs for receiving foreign delegations attending the organization's 27th congress. The state had to pay in full the upkeep of party bosses and members of their families, the state coffers shelled out vast amounts for the construction and upkeep of privileged Central Committee sanatoriums and "hunting lodges," and so forth.

They helped themselves and their friends, too. The CPSU financed not only foreign communist parties, as we all know, but also so-called "revolutionary movements" of an overtly terrorist nature. Furthermore...

"This organization committed genocide against its own people, fueled ethnic strife, and deported whole nations," S. Shakhray stressed. "The CPSU kindled social hostility at a professional and international level. We have documentary confirmation that this organization interfered in such areas as freedom of conscience and the running of religious organizations. The most important thing is that the CPSU's activity is incompatible with the state and national security of the Russian Federation."

Answering a question on his own finance as the president's representative, S. Shakhray said:

"I do not take money for representing him. In other words, unlike the CPSU I am not going to raid the state budget."

So the examination has begun and even though it is a thankless task to try to predict the Constitutional Court's ruling, perhaps it will become clear what is "implied" when "we use the word party."

'Other Aims' Pursued

LD2405202292 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1445 GMT 24 May 92

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] Early next week the Constitutional Court is to deliver its verdict on the legality of Yeltsin's decrees banning the activities of the CPSU and the Russian Communist Party. The decrees are very vulnerable from the legal point of view, as is also confirmed by the experts. Legal nihilism of executive power is already a much talked about phenomenon with us. The Constitutional Court is in a difficult position. [video shows unidentified correspondent in office with Sergey Shakhray, formerly state counsellor for legal affairs]

[Begin recording] [Correspondent] One really cannot envy the Constitutional Court Chairman Zorkin. He can approve a very contentious decree, and if he does not, he could be in disgrace.

[Shakhray] In principle, although they are also citing certain sources, an attempt to state that the Constitutional Court will in the event of bad behavior be reformed in some way, that Shakhray will replace Zorkin—this is, in my view, simply blatant pressure on the Constitutional Court, because such respected media know that candidate judges can only be nominated by Khasbulatov, so Shakhray falls away straight away, that judges can only be elected by the Congress, and that judges already elected can elect a chairman from their ranks, and moreover no grounds are envisaged for reelecting Zorkin. That is, this is simply an attempt to exert pressure on the court—behave well otherwise Shakhray will be made chairman.

[Correspondent] Well, let's wait for the court's decision. Still, what happens if the president's decrees suddenly turn out to be illegal? Let's imagine such a situation—what would happen then? Apologies to the CPSU and the return of its property that has already been distributed to other organizations?

[Shakhray] It's hypothetical. I think that other aims are being pursued here, because it is clear that restoring the Communist Party is just as difficult as reviving a number of that organization's leaders. I am compelled simply to reiterate that I am fully convinced of the legal grounding for these presidential decrees, and I shall try to prove this at the court. [end recording]

Rumyantsev on Communist Threat to Russia

LD2705174592 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1554 GMT 27 May 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Aleksandr Krasulin and Vladimir Shevel]

[Text] Moscow May 27 TASS—"The activeness of supporters of the Communist Party has demonstrated the real danger of a revenge. If the Russian president's decrees are corrected in a way, this could become a starting point for revanchists," Oleg Rumyantsev, executive secretary of Russia's Constitutional Commission, told reporters today. Rumyantsev was one of the authors of a request to declare the Communist Party unconstitutional.

"If an action about the constitutionality of Boris Yeltsin's decrees banning the Soviet and Russian Communist Parties had not been filed, there wouldn't have been our petition either," Rumyantsev said.

"Uniting both petitions into one case enabled us to turn the Communist Parties from plaintiffs into both plaintiffs and defendants," he said.

The recognition by the Constitutional Court of the unconstitutionality of the Soviet Communist Party and the Russian Communist Party, which in effect were supra-state structures, would automatically legalize the president's decrees banning them, Rumyantsev said.

Asked why the counter action was filed only on May 12 of this year, People's Deputy Aleksey Surkov said that previously the Constitutional Court did not have the authority to review Communist Parties—it was granted it by the Sixth Congress of People's Deputies.

"Our action was not accidental," Aleksandr Kotenkov, deputy chairman of the parliament's legal committee, said.

"We studied 100 documents, confirming the Communist Party's illegal activities," he said.

The petition to declare the Soviet Communist Party unconstitutional is a blatant attempt to outlaw both the party and the communist ideology, according to Sergey Skvortsov, chairman of the All-Union Committee of Communists.

The court's deliberations once again highlighted the inability of former Communist Party leaders to defend the party's interests, which was reflected in their unwillingness to "take responsibility and represent the Soviet Communist Party in court," Skvortsov said.

This once again proves right common communists, "who have begun reviving the party from below, without the bankrupt Gorbachevian Central Committee," he said.

Skvortsov said he believes that the question of representing the party in the Constitutional Court will be discussed at the 29th party congress "which will be held in the nearest future".

Prospects for Trial of Ex-CPSU Leaders Viewed

OW2705190092 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1749 GMT 27 May 92

[Prepared by Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Vladimir Shishlin; edited by Boris Grishchenko; from "Presidential Bulletin"; transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] IF [INTERFAX] correspondent Andrey Pershin reports that Russia's Constitutional Court meeting on Tuesday [26 May] ruled that an appeal by a group of MPs [members of parliament] for testing the legality of Mr Yeltsin's decrees on disbanding the Central and Russian Communist Parties and a counter-appeal by the secretary of the Constitutional Commission, Mr Oleg Rumyantsev, also an MP, would now be considered as one case on whether or not the two parties were at all constitutional. The Court's ruling automatically turns plaintiffs into defendants. However, none of them, except one MP, Yuriy Slobodkin, had agreed to defend either party. In the end, they said Mr Slobodkin had no powers to represent the Communist Party at hearings.

As a result, the Constitutional Court ruled that the former general secretary of the now-defunct Soviet Communist Party, Mikhail Gorbachev, and his deputy, Vladimir Ivashko, as well as the leader of the Russian Communist Party, Valentin Kuptsov, who'd been in charge for only 13 days, should all testify at the proceedings.

The decision sets formal grounds for investigation into the question of the party's legality.

President Yeltsin and his representatives in the Court-state secretary Gennadiy Burbulis, Russian MP Sergey Shakhray, and the director of the agency for intellectual property rights, Mikhail Fedotov, meeting on Monday, contemplated the idea of converting the case into a Nuremburg-style hearings, something that Mr Shakhray reaffirmed at a news conference later on the same day.

But after the Court's ruling on Tuesday, Mr Yeltsin's representatives played it down.

Many link this change of heart with lukewarm public reaction, including influential democratic organisations, such as Memorial, which found hard to stomach the idea of a major political trial with far-reaching propaganda aims.

During a break in the Court's session, Mr Oleg Rumyantsev told IF that he was opposed to a new Nuremburg trial in view of social polarisation and divisions, and a heightening of tension that may follow such a trial.

For his part, Mr Shakhray speaking at a news briefing at the foreign ministry's press centre on Tuesday also made it clear that the question was one of a political rather than legal aspect of the new Nuremburg. But he did not think "anyone will brought to justice" following the final verdict.

Mr Fedotov, however, was more outspoken saying "we aren't so bloodthirsty" meaning that none of the former communist leaders will brought to account.

Local observers in Moscow say that "the new Nuremburg" will amount to the exposure of the party elite's illegal decision-making and actions on the basis of declassified documents but will no way affect anyone in person, as this can lead to the case being taken to the Supreme Court and subsequent revelations of the undesirable detail linked with the former activity by a number of present Russian leaders who held prominent jobs in the party's higher structures.

Grachev on 'Battle-Worthy', 'Battle-Ready' Army

LD2405113192

[Editorial Report] Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian at 0715 GMT on 24 May carries a 30-minute 'Aty-Baty' program devoted to the reform of the Russian Army. A number of officers—identified by name only, with no ranks given, and many wearing civilian clothes—give their views on the Army's role.

Shaposhnikov, in a brief video clip, says: "In general we have made quite a lot of progress in the study of miliary matters".

Several officers are then asked if they think the Army has a "military doctrine:" Some say yes, some say no, while others say they think it has the beginnings of one.

Russian Defense Minister Grachev is then interviewed by an unidentified interviewer, who asks: "What is the main difficulty you see in building the Russian Army? What is first thing you've come up against?"

Grachev replies: "The main difficulty—well, I haven't come up against it very much yet—the main difficulty is, first, with the reduction—how can we reduce the corps of officers as painlessly as possible? We have given a lot of thought to this, and with the gradual transition to a professional army, many sergeants and men doing extra service will be replaced by officers. So that's the first difficulty. The second difficulty is that the creation of new structures in the Defense Ministry and in the Army itself will necessitate the introduction of many organisational measures both to reduce the units and formations and to create new structures. Well, I have to say that we plan to create a new type of armed force, the rapid deployment troops, and that will also take time, the necessary amount of funds, and great effort."

He is then asked: "A second question: The Russian Constitution has not yet defined either the status of the Russian Army, or the basic principles of the Russian Army...."

Grachev interrupts to say: "We haven't even got a defense law."

The interviewer continues: "Not even a defense law. And yet we're already creating these military structures. Aren't we putting the cart before the horse?" Grachev replies: "No, I don't think so. The Supreme Soviet Committee on Security and Defense under Stepashin is working on a defense law and it has already had a first reading in parliament. In addition, the newly created Security Council chaired by our president, with Yuriy Vladimirovich Skokov as secretary, is also working on this, and on the 20th, in the first reading—as it is fashionable to say—in the Security Council, that defense law will be examined."

M. Kolchev is then asked why he thinks the president chose Grachev, and replies that Grachev had probably shown his loyalty, and was personally recommended by Shaposhnikov and Rutskoy. He says "In our [as heard] opinion, the defense minister should be a civilian and the Army should be headed by a civilian defense ministry."

V. Urazhtsev talks about Grachev's qualities, and N. Cheldymov says many people expected that there would be a civilian defense minister, with a military man as chief of general staff. But perhaps a soldier as defense minister is justified to some extent because of the period of transition, he says. He goes on to say that however, there must be "precisely elaborated mechanisms of civilian supervision of the actions of that minister and ministry"—otherwise the Army could again become a state within a state, with the defense minister in absolute control of military policy.

A uniformed interviewee warns that if everything is scrapped at once, it will take a very long time to rebuild.

The program ends with a video clip of Grachev making a brief speech, with reporters clustering around him with microphones. He says: "Dear officers! At this difficult time for Russia, at this difficult time of the reforming of the Army and the creation of new army structures, I ask you keep calm and exercise restraint. I understand that you are in a difficult position, especially those officers who are serving in Transcaucasus, the Northwestern Group of Troops and in some regions of Central Asia. I promise you that as defense minister I know that position, and I am taking the strongest measures to make life easier for you in the very near future. I assure you that I have already made the decision—which has been approved by the president of our state—to begin the withdrawal of our troops from Azerbaijan and Armenia. The question of the status of the presence of our troops in Georgia is being decided. The question of the status of the presence of our troops in Turkmenistan, Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan is being decided. The question of the future of the 14th Army is being decided. Intensive negotiations are under way with representatives of the Baltic states. The Russian Army will very soon be a battle-worthy, battle- ready army—but only with your help."

Defense Enterprises Appeal to Khasbulatov

LD2705204192 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1700 GMT 27 May 92

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] ITAR-TASS reports that representatives of the military-industrial complex, on behalf of 500 directors of defense enterprises, today submitted a tough statement to the Russian parliament and government.

[Correspondent V. Perfilyev] Ruslan Khasbulatov today met with the heads of a number of enterprises of the Russian defense industry. They were delegated by 500 directors of the defense industry complex who gathered in Moscow. The chairman of parliament was handed an appeal to the Supreme Soviet and government which set out the demand not to allow the disintegration of production kollektivs and mass closures of production.

Ruslan Khasbulatov stressed that a solution to this problem comes under the competence of executive power and, at the same time, he promised to adopt measures to improve the activities of the Central Bank. [video shows Khasbulatov talking to industrialists]

Khasbulatov Turns Down Draft Law on Government

OW2605113292 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1027 GMT 26 May 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The speaker of the Russian parliament Ruslan Khasbulatov has turned down the draft law on the council of ministers drafted by a working group of the constitutional committee.

At a committee session on Monday [25 May] he suggested waiting for the cabinet version of the document.

He favored concerted work of the constitutional committee and executive branch of power on the legal document.

Khasbulatov on Need To Strengthen State Power

LD2705045192 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1810 GMT 26 May 92

[Interview with Ruslan Khasbulatov, chairman of the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet, by unidentified interviewer on a segment of the "Mirrors" program entitled "Consolidation Is the Main Thing"—live or recorded]

[Text] [Interviewer] There is now a paralysis of power at all levels. Can this be resolved?

[Khasbulatov] It seems to us that we have tremendous power throughout all of our Russian territory. Unfortunately, it is an illusion. In actual fact you are right in noting that processes are developing which will diminish power, in terms of power in general, state power, legislative power, and representative and executive power. There are specific examples of this: Laws of the Supreme Soviet are not observed; decisions by the congress are not fulfilled; and presidential decrees are not fulfilled.

If you take a somewhat broader view of the situation, it is certainly not a case in which one area of power has become weaker while another may have become stronger. In actuality, if one area of power weakens, others weaken in precisely the same degree. From my point of view, our main task is to strengthen power at all levels, the power of the state.

Incidentally, if you followed them closely, the speeches made at the all-Russian conference of Supreme Soviet chairmen of our Russian republics, oblasts, and krays were full of concern (?for the state). Heads of administration bodies of oblasts and krays also took part. In general, this concern was one of the main things.

How, then, are we to strengthen power to implement the reforms, to combat crime, and to consistently and effectively implement our economic policies? The main condition—I mentioned it in my article and have constantly voiced it at Supreme Soviet sessions—is for each area of power, including the legislative, executive, and judiciary branches, to stick closely to our constitutional principle of the separation of powers while retaining its individuality and relative independence and, at the same time, coordinating actions and displaying a respectful attitude toward other areas of power, supporting each other, implementing our reforms jointly, and reaching common consensus at each stage of their implementation. That is an essential condition.

The second condition, it seems to me, is that all of us—fellow countrymen, political figures, public figures, members of the government, administrators, and all our democratic forces, I am referring to truly democratic forces, because an organization is not necessarily a genuinely democratic one just because it is called democratic—anyway, we must strive for civic and ethnic peace. We must increasingly involve the trade union movement and various sections of the working class in implementing our reforms. There is no doubt about that, along with the intelligentsia as well.

At the current time we are somehow, generally speaking, refusing to cooperate with major social groups and the figures who really reflect their interests and aspirations. That is why the expansion of the social base of support for the reforms is tantamount to proceeding along the path of civic peace. This seems to me to be exceptionally important.

Unfortunately, our media is not developing this point. It is very frequently said that I am prone to conflict. I am not at loggerheads with anyone. What I would like is for our press—our big and small newspapers—to pay more attention to the destiny of the fatherland and to the acute questions that are worrying our peoples. They should be less attracted by some kind of, you know, searching for enemies. Some find them in the Kremlin; others find them in Staraya Ploshchad; still others, the most active ones, find enemies in the White House, literally instituting surveillance on the highest leaders—who went where, who was sitting in what car, who said what, and so on! What sort of business is this anyway?

Generally speaking, our fatherland is in great danger now; this is due to the ineffectiveness of power and the fact that the very foundations of that power are being undermined. The gossip and the various exaggerated reports—they may not be deliberate, but rather the result of misunderstandings—but we must renounce such methods. What we need is the concept of a true patriotism, a patriotism which loves its fatherland, whose heart aches for its people, and which does everything to ensure that its true aspiration is to protecting our citizens, our people.

My dream is for this to be truly reflected in the pages of the press and on television and radio. I would like to see more of this in our press. Very often many journalists try to sow discord, to provoke a certain anxiety in people. We must renounce such methods. We have set ourselves a great goal: to make our society into a truly democratic, civilized, and prosperous society in a fairly short time. If we all go off in different directions and constantly voice contradictory and ill-considered views and judgments on very serious issues, our authority will disappear and there will be a decline in the authority of the supreme holders of power, the supreme bodies of power. We will definitely end up in an even worse position than we are now.

Therefore, I would like to take this opportunity to appeal to all political figures, political parties, deputies at all levels, and holders of administrative and government power to be very sensible in your assessments of various events and to proceed along the road of accord and of coordinating your actions. That will save us today. It is no coincidence that it is said that a kindly attitude is capable of solving very complicated problems. I feel that such a benevolent attitude—naturally, while one sticks to some of one's own views—and such a wise, cautious approach to solving problems can be very effective at this difficult time.

Resolution on Communications Operations Issued

PM2205101592 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 19 May 92 p 4

[Russian Federation Government Resolution No. 270, of 24 April 1992 signed by Ye. Gaydar, first deputy chairman of the Russian Federation Government, Moscow: "On State Support for the Functioning of Communications in the Russian Federation"]

[Text] For the purposes of guaranteeing the uninterrupted functioning of republic electrical and postal communications during the period of transition to market relations, the Russian Federation Government resolves:

1. To grant state enterprises involved in the basic activity of the Russian Federation Ministry of Communications the right to set tariffs for communications services autonomously, including tariffs for disseminating commercial (commissioned) television and radio products, which also includes state programs.

To preserve state regulation of tariffs for services to the population which have great social significance, in accordance with the appendix, and to organizations financed from the Russian Federation republic budget, the republic budgets of republics within the Russian Federation, and the budgets of national-state and administrative-territorial formations in the Russian Federation.

2. To establish that money from the Russian Federation republic budget should be used to finance expenditure by the Russian Federation Ministry of Communications for maintain mobilization backup services [mobilizatsionniy rezerv], to equip communications subdivisions on permanent stand-by [gotovnost] to restore communications networks in emergency situations, and also for conducting mobilization training measures.

3. The Russian Federation Ministry of Justice, the Russian Federation Finance Ministry, and the Russian Federation Ministry of Communications, within the space of two weeks, must present in accordance with established procedure a proposal on amending the following existing Russian Federation laws:

"On Profits Tax for Enterprises and Organizations"—as regards the exemption of state enterprises involved in the Russian Federation Ministry of Communications' basic activity from paying tax on those profits which are used for developing republic communications facilities;

"On Payment for Land"—as regards the exemption of state communications enterprises ensuring the dissemination (relaying) of state radio and television programs and working in the interests of the republic's defense from payment of paying land tax;

Before deciding this question, it is recommended that governments of republics within the Russian Federation, organs of executive power in krays, oblasts, autonomous formations, and the cities of Moscow and St. Petersburg submit to the relevant organs of state power for their examination proposals on granting rebates on land tax to the aforesaid enterprises.

4. The Russian Federation Ministry of the Press and Information must bring expenditure on broadcasting state radio and television programs into line with the scale of finance envisaged in the relevant budgets.

[signed] Ye. Gaydar, first deputy chairman of the Russian Federation Government

Appendix to the Russian Federation Government Resolution No. 270 of 24 April 1992:

List of Communications Services to the Population Sold at State Regulated Tariffs

Conveyance of: postcards, letters (except high-value letters), printed matter, parcels, money orders.

Transmission of telegrams.

Conversations by public telephone call boxes on local telephone networks.

Exporters To Disclose Foreign Accounts

OW2705175192 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1337 GMT 27 May 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] According to reliable sources in the Russian parliament, First Vice-Premier Yegor Gaydar has instructed energy exporters to inform the government of their foreign bank accounts. A number of organizations, including the Gazprom and Neftegaz concerns, as well as the Soyuzgazexport amalgamation will have to disclose their foreign bank accounts, stating their balances in these accounts.

The same sources claim that these foreign bank accounts are worth at least 20 billion dollars.

Further on Credit Interest Rate Rise

PM2705155192 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 26 May 92 Morning Edition p 1

[Report by Ivan Zhagel: "Russia Toughens Monetary Policy; Cost of Central Bank Credits Raised to 80 Percent"]

[Text] The Russian Federation Central Bank has made a decision which will probably have substantial influence on the state of our entire economy. Centralized credit resources will now be supplied to commercial banks at an annual interest rate of 80 percent!

I shall recall that less than two months ago the Russian Central Bank raised the interest rate for its credits from 20 to 50 percent. Even then the commercial banks voiced serious dissatisfaction since the more expensive it is for them to acquire funds the higher the interest rate they themselves set, reducing the money for industry and agriculture. And now there is a new and drastic increase in the cost of centralized credit resources.

By this decision the Russian bank has reaffirmed its adherence to a strict monetary policy whereby the health of the national currency as the main condition for the normalization of the entire economy is placed foremost. Although deaths are possible this way, that is to say not very firmly established enterprises may be bankrupted since they cannot pay off expensive credits. Actually, on those terms not a single bank will give them credit, knowing that it would be the purest act of charity.

But despite the toughness and even ferocity of the decision that has been made, S. Ignatyev, deputy chairman of the Central Bank of Russia, has stated that it would simply be dangerous to keep the level of interest for centralized bank resources lower than the current inflation rate. Then enterprises could buy some goods or raw material with the money they had obtained and then a few months later sell them at new prices and return the money to the bank, at the same time making a good profit. In that case they would not need to produce anything.

It is no accident that with interest rates of 50 percent per annum, the demand for centralized credit resources obviously exceeded the volumes of these credit resources. The Central Bank has constantly been pressured through representatives of the government and through the president's entourage to feed the economy again and again with more cheap money, so to speak.

Actually, the efforts of the Central Bank of Russia to restrain the issue of credits and the growth of the money mass may not give the expected result since in connection with the independence of the national banks of other republics in the ruble zone they are actively feeding the economy with unsecured money. At any rate S. Ignatyev confirmed that not a single national bank has submitted its balance to the Central Bank of Russia and no one really knows what is happening with the monetary ruble mass as a whole.

The situation has not been clarified by the meeting last week between the bankers of all republics of the ruble zone in Tashkent. Recognizing the need to coordinate credit and monetary policy and even expressing themselves in favor of creating an interbank union, the other republics want each of them to have equal representation in this union. But that does not suit Russia, which has the biggest economic potential. And its position is largely justified since any international financial organization rules out equal representation as is the case, for instance, with the IMF.

Decision Not 'Unexpected'

MK2705111392 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 27 May 92 p 1

[Mikhail Leontyev report under the "Finance" rubric: "Central Bank: Interest Rate Above or Below Inflation?"]

[Text] The Russian Central Bank decision to raise the interest rate for credit to 80 percent cannot be considered unexpected. Under pressure from the government, the Central Bank has increased the rate twice since the start of the year, first to 20 percent and then to 50 percent per annum. The difference being that only now is the interest rate positive, that is, in excess of the current level of inflation. Thus, loss-making financing of enterprises is at an end and treasury credit has finally met the unlimited demand that necessitated centralized distribution thereof. The 80-percent rate is undoubtedly deflationary; however, the 50-percent rate was really deflationary too, but nevertheless the "shock of deflation" is as yet only a threat.

Enterprises with their increasing indebtedness are being made to bear the full rigor of credit and finance policy. The bitter pill of credit restrictions can only take effect if equally tough means of resolving the payments crisis are found.

Today enterprises regard nonpayment as a substitute not so much for preferential credit as for direct budget financing. Enterprise directors boast to one another about how many invoices they have on file.

First the Central Bank's provision of credit on tap to balance commercial banks' debits (losses) and the steps to resolve the payments crisis by means of massive preferential credits smack of legalizing this latent issue of credit. It would therefore be interesting to calculate the Central Bank's averaged rate for all credit: It is highly doubtful that it would still be positive.

Provisions of New Currency Control Law Examined

PM2705102392 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 25 May 92 Morning Edition p 2

[Report by Ivan Zhagel: "Currency Law Forbids Wages Being Received in Hard Currency"]

[Text] The Russian Federation Supreme Soviet has adopted the Law "On Currency Regulation and Currency Control" at its first reading. It can be said after studying it that it contains no surprises whatsoever.

At any rate, I. Ivanov, chairman of the subcommission on currency policy, stressed in conversation with me that the law brings together, as it were, all the decrees and instructions in the sphere of currency regulation hitherto issued by the Russian president, government, and Central Bank.

Among the basic provision of the law, it should be noted first and foremost that it forbids reciprocal settlements in foreign currency on the territory of Russia. Moreover, the payment to citizens of wages or any other forms of remuneration in foreign currency is forbidden. Although, on the other hand, any person or organization can open hard currency accounts in Russian banks licensed to carry our currency transactions—the draft law uses the term "authorized banks."

The buying and selling of foreign currency in the Russian Federation is permitted only via the authorized banks and their specialized subagencies at a rate determined according to supply and demand. These specialized subagencies cannot be corporate bodies. This means in fact that no private individuals or any other organizations which have nothing to do with banks can obtain a brokerage license for selling and buying foreign currency.

In view of the ban on reciprocal settlements in hard currency, the following question naturally arises: What will happen to the hard-currency stores, which are now springing up like wildfire? In answer to this, Ivanov said that as of 1 July they are all to start trading in rubles alone, as envisaged by the president's November decree "On the Liberalization of Foreign Economic Activity." Incidentally, at a recent briefing A. Ulyukayev, government economics advisor, stated that there would be no ban on the circulation of foreign currency in Russia from 1 July, as the republic is "technically unready for such a ban by the previously scheduled date."

Unfortunately, this and many other contentious issues of currency regulation cannot be resolved by the new law. It is not a law of direct application [pryamoye deystviye] and all the details are delegated to the authority of the president and the Central Bank, that is, there is a certain amount of leeway in tackling many problems, which is perfectly valid during a transitional period. However, the memory of various forms of high-handedness displayed in currency regulation is still fresh and makes us regard any laws of indirect application very suspiciously.

'Leap' Into Market Effects State Interests

PM2205163592 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 19 May 92 p 7

[Commentary by Vladimir Shprygin: "1. 'Leap' Into the Market—But Have Not Russia's Interests Been Forgotten in the Meantime?"]

[Text] To improve people's lives—that is the basic aim of the economic reform being implemented in Russia. Unfortunately, analysis shows that its initial results still leave a lot to be desired. Crisis phenomena are clearly emerging in the country. The population's living standards fell by approximately 20 percent in the first quarter, and volumes of industrial output dropped significantly. It is expected that they will fall by at least 15 percent by the end of the first six months.

Instead of the planned two-threefold increase, prices rose by 10-11 times, and for some goods by 50 times! Confrontation between individual regions of the country is growing, and there are distortions between sectors of extractive and processing industry. Optimistic forecasts on the revival of the financial system and the eradication of the budget deficit have not been vindicated.

On the contrary, financial disarray is more evident with every passing day. This can be seen not only from the emission of money and the depreciation of the ruble, but also from the appearance of opposing closed regional financial systems.

Yes, the first steps of reform are disheartening. Both the methods and the very strategy for conducting the reform require radical alteration. Above all, it is a question of the policy for developing and siting productive forces. In many ways, it was oriented toward satisfying the demands of former USSR republics and did not take sufficiently full account of, or even simply ignored, Russia's national interests. This led to the irrational siting of productive forces—their excessive concentration in some regions, and their poor development in others.

Roughly 70 percent of all enterprises in the metallurgical and fuel and energy complex, 60 percent of timber industry enterprises, and 80 percent of chemical industry enterprises supplying their output to former USSR republics are ecologically harmful.

Alas, the economic reform takes no account of these peculiarities since the concept is based on the idea of "leaping" to the market and striving to rectify the economic situation mainly through changes to financial and pricing policy. It does not outline any serious transformations in production spheres, and this intensifies contradictions between regional and pan-Russian interests and aggravates the socioeconomic situation.

The historical differences between regions' levels of development and their division into industrial and agricultural areas play a decisive role today when elaborating the strategy for conducting reform.

Our output from processing industry, primarily machine building, is still not competitive on world markets. At the same time, fuel and raw material resources are in great demand on those markets.

Price liberalization gives an unfair advantage to regions possessing scarce natural resources and to industrial areas. The latter include the Urals, the industrial Non-Chernozem Zone, the Volga Region, and also the major administrative centers. Naturally, this aggravates the socioeconomic situation in the country.

As the differentiation between regions' economic situation intensifies, it will inevitably be necessary to close a significant number of enterprises or to return to a system of subsidies, only at a much higher level than was the case before the reform.

To some extent, the former policy of siting productive forces within the framework of the former USSR republics was justified by the need to restore the war-ravaged national economy in the Baltic republics, Byelarus, Ukraine, and the Caucasus. Enormous resources were invested in developing these regions. The fact that many of them do not have their own raw material base was also taken into consideration. So it was on their territories that enterprises in processing industry, precision machine building, and the electronics industry and high-technology production units were created.

Consequently, a powerful machine-building base was created there, and major enterprises in the motor industry and tractor and agricultural machine building and enterprises producing television and radio technology were set up.

While these republics witnessed the emergence of progressive production units leading the way in scientific and technical progress and, accordingly, a progressive structure in the working class, raw materials sectors of industry continued to develop in Russia. A consequence of this is not only the non-progressive structure of Russia's national economy, weighted in favor of extractive sectors, with huge quantities of ecologically harmful, health-threatening output, but also a structure of the working class with a significant proportion of semiskilled workers.

The breach of economic links between former USSR republics which has occurred has clearly shown how pernicious this policy is for Russia. It will have to be revised, with the main emphasis being placed on satisfying Russia's own interests. This policy should revolve around the understanding that an effective transition to a market economy depends upon the consolidation of all economic segments and management components.

It is from precisely this standpoint that the conditions and limits for developing the economic autonomy of republics, krays, and oblasts within Russia should be examined. Although their economic autonomy relies on regional markets, its development should proceed from the need to create favorable conditions for forming a single pan-Russian market.

While some Russian territories with a developed economy and access to world markets could be switched to market relations relatively speedily, then others will take many years to make that transition. It is not difficult to predict the results of a "leap" into the market—Russia's economy will inevitably be torn to pieces. To prevent this from happening, it is vital to balance not just sectoral structures but also territorial structures. What is needed is a differentiated approach to conducting pricing, taxation, and financial policy in the Russian Federation regions, and their gradual transition to market relations.

During price liberalization, production units which yield returns in the relatively distant future are placed in by far the most difficult position. These include construction, the power industry, the metallurgical complex, transport, basic science, and sectors where the effect of more expensive raw materials on the production unit's expenditure is particularly perceptible. That is, light industry, base sectors of processing industry, machine tool building, and the production of machines and equipment for agriculture, light industry, the food industry, and the fuel industry.

Because of the increase in costs and the excessive surge in prices, many machine tool building enterprises are forced to shy away from producing automated equipment and program-controlled machine tools and return to producing models which were withdrawn from production several years ago as obsolete. Thus, price liberalization is effectively directed against technical progress.

As for sectors like culture, tourism, the service sphere, and health, then, owing to their unprofitability, they could...disappear altogether.

Law Adjusting Budget Indicators Published

PM1705181992 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 14 May 92 First Edition p 2

["Russian Federation Law Adjusting Russian Federation Budget System Indicators for the First Quarter of 1992," dated 4 April 1992, signed by Russian Federation President B. Yeltsin, and carried under the rubric "Official Section"]

[Text] To implement the RSFSR law "On the Principles of the Budget System and Budget Process in the RSFSR" and the Russian Federation Law "On the Russian Federation Budget System in the first quarter of 1992" the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet rules that:

Article 1. The Russian Federation Government's proposal on reducing the Russian Federation republic budget income by 226.3 billion rubles [R] in the first quarter of 1992 and Russian Federation republic expenditure by R158.8 billion be accepted.

A maximum Russian Federation republic budget deficit of R67.5 billion should be set in the first quarter of 1992.

Article 2. Russian Federation repoublic budget income from the main sources should be reduced as follows [figures in millions of rubles]: Value-added tax—5093.4 Excise duty—188.6 Income from foreign economic activities—219702.0 Income from privatization of state and municipal facilities—1215.4

Article 3. Appropriations from the Russian Federation republic budget in the first quarter of 1992 for the following purposes are to be adjusted as follows [figures in millions of rubles]: Financing the national economy—+22263.9

including:

guaranteeing the sector tariff agreement between the Russian Federation Government and Russian independent union of coal industry workers pertaining to pay—+22100.0 Financing sociocultural measures—+11927.5

including:

education—+4345.2

culture and art—+498.9

the media—+550.1

health and physical education—+6228.8

of which

Russian Federation Health Ministry—+735.9

Russian Federation State Sanitary and Health Inspection Committee—+552.6

social security—+304.5 Financing basic scientific research and state (Russian Federation) scientific-technical programs—+778.0 Financing expenditure related to foreign economic activities—219702.7

of which:

fund for regulating export-import transactions—-56100.0 Upkeep of law-enforcement organs (except for courts)—+5029.9 Committee for state border protection—+1354.8 Federal agency for government communication and information—+518.0 Upkeep of organs of state power and administration and the courts—+183.3 Compensation for Russian Federation Pension Fund

expenditure on the payment and delivery of state pensions and allowances to draftees, social pensions, allowances for children between the ages of 18 months and six years—+3208.0 Formation of financial reserves to adjust protected items of Russian Federation republic budget to the prices index—17961.9 Funds for transactions transferred to the budgets of republics in the Russian Federation and to local budgets from the Russian Federation republic budget —+28019.1 Financing of measures for the social protection of the population—+29000.0

of which:

payment of benefits and allowances for children—+2900.0 Other expenditure—+1040.0

The Russian Federation Government is to meet and finance the actual need for defense appropriations in the first quarter of 1992.

Article 4. The following changes are to be made to the appropriations from the Russian Federation republic budget for the upkeep of organs of state power and administration and the courts [figures in millions of rubles]:

Russian Federation Supreme Soviet—+38.4

Russian Federation Supreme Court—+4.0

Other courts and prosecutor's offices in the Russian Federation—+140.8

Article 5. An extra R1 billion is to go from the Russian Federation republic budget to the "Russian Farmer" fund to provide amenities for newly formed peasant (private) farms.

Article 6. The Russian Federation Central Bank is authorized to give extra credit to the Russian Federation Finance Ministry in the first quarter of 1992 to the tune of R67.5 billion to pay off the Russian Federation republic budget deficit over a period of 10 years in equal parts beginning in 1996 at any interest rate of 10 percent per year.

Article 7. It is laid down that in 1992 the rent paid by leasehold enterprises set up on the basis of leasing the property of state enterprises and also by components of these enterprises will go to the budgets of national-state and administrative-territorial entities and to the Russian Federation republic budget in equal parts.

Article 8. In order to implement Article 19 of the RSFSR Law "On Payment for Land" the average proportion of the centralization of rental payments and of the tax on land in cities and other population centers is to be set at 40 percent. Around 75 percent of the centralized funds are to be spent on improving soil fertility and on the social development of the countryside. As of the second quarter of 1992 advance payments to the budget for land with their subsequent recalculation are to be introduced for enterprises and organizations.

Article 9. Article 9 of the Russian Federation Law "On the Russian Federation Budget System for the First Quarter of 1992," where it relates to the formation of funds for social support for the population, will remain in force until the end of 1992.

Article 10. The Supreme Soviets of republics in the Russian Federation and local soviets will be entitled:

to set maximum levels for apartment rentals and tariffs and payments for power, water, heating, and other public utilities;

to make decisions on the commercial sale of liquor;

to implement on their own initiative the privatization of uncompleted facilities irrespective of what department they belong to (except for facilities that are not to be privatized).

Sixty percent of the revenue from the privatization of these facilities goes into the special nonbudget funds of the relevant regions as extra income to finance social programs.

Article 11. In view of the reduced expenditure on defense and of the conversion of the defense industry, the financing of expenditure on the upkeep and development of the infrastructure of cities formed as a result of government decisions in places where Russian Federation Nuclear Power Industry Ministry enterprises and organizations are situated, in accordance with a list drawn up by the Russian Federation Government, is to come from part of the income received by budgets of national-state and administrative-territorial entities with a corresponding reduction in the payments to the Russian Federation republic budget. The aforementioned lists are agreed in advance by enterprises and local organs of power.

[Signed] Russian Federation President B. Yeltsin

Russian House of Soviets, Moscow, 4 April 1992, No 2662-1

Supreme Soviet

Involvement in Libyan Sanctions To Be Discussed

LD2205105292 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1006 GMT 22 May 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Ivan Novikov]

[Text] Moscow 22 TASS—The Russian parliament will examine the legality of Russia's participation in international sanctions against Libya, according to a decision by today's joint session of the Russian parliament's two chambers.

The motion came from a member of the parliament and was seconded by parliament speaker Ruslan Khasbulatov, who said he did not rule out the possibility of Libya repaying its debts to Russia very soon but for the Russian Cabinet's hasty decision to join international sanctions against Libya. Libyan payments would have exceeded everything the International Monetary Fund has offered Russia, Khasbulatov stressed.

The committee for international affairs and foreign economic relations was instructed to make a preliminary study of Russian sanctions against Libya. The matter is then likely to be put on the agenda of the current session of the Russian parliament.

Abdulatipov, Ryabov Defend Khasbulatov, Congress

MK2805114592 Moscow KURANTY in Russian 28 May 92 p 1

[Report by Konstantin Katanyan: "Khasbulatov—Part of Russia's National Dignity"]

[Text] That was how R. Abdulatipov, chairman of the Russian parliament's Soviet of Nationalities, described the chairman of the Russian Supreme Soviet yesterday.

At a news conference given by the chairmen of the Russian Supreme Soviet chambers N. Ryabov and R. Adulatipov spent a lot of time criticizing the people's deputies who distributed a questionnaire effectively asking for Khasbulatov to be put on trial. Ryabov described all the charges against the speaker as unfounded.

Speaking about the frequent press statements regarding the need to dissolve the Congress of Russian People's Deputies, the chairmen of the chambers described all attempts to break up the congress effectively as a call for a coup d'etat. Evidently, B. Yeltsin himself finds himself in this category since he initially said at the congress that the representative authority must not be overthrown and then changed his tune and also advocated the early suspension of the powers of Russian people's deputies.

As for the mass media, they are, in the opinion of the chairmen of the chambers, performing a social task and are effectively the newspapers of the "Russian Government Politburo." IZVESTIYA was cited by way of an example, having switched from being the organ of the Soviets to being an antisoviet newspaper.

Abdulatipov said that when the parliament blathers, that's bad; but when the government does it, that makes no sense at all. At the same time no newspaper has remarked, Abdulatipov believes, that following the congress we are living in a state where questions of a federative structure are being decided and the principles of the Federation Treaty must be put into practice. Incidentally, during the recent talks with representatives of the Chechen Republic nine of Checheniya's 10 demands coincided with the provisions of the Federation Treaty, which, as you know, Checheniya has not signed.

Budget Commission Officials Interviewed

LD2305163792

[Editorial Report] Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian at 1445 GMT on 23 May broadcasts a 13-minute program, featuring Igor Zbronzhko, Russian Federation Supreme Soviet people's deputy and presenter, who interrupts a session of the commission preparing amendments to a draft decision on budget arrangements in order to interview commission members collectively on financial matters.

Yu.M. Voronin, Russian Federation Supreme Soviet deputy chairman, says the commission has noted that the Russian Federation Government has unfortunately overrun the deadline for submission of the budget. Also, care has been taken by the commission so that the draft decision reflects the link between the budget and territorial bodies.

Russian Federation Finance Minister V.V. Barchuk defends the Ministry of Finance, saying that a very tight deadline for submission of the budget was set, and although he himself has only recently taken over the post of Russian Federation finance minister, he had been fulfilling pretty much the same brief before as Russian Federation deputy finance minister, and therefore must shoulder his share of the blame for the late submission of the budget by the Russian Federation Government.

An unidentified member of the commission makes the point that not everything is in the hands of the Russian Federation Finance Ministry. For instance, leaders go on trips around the country and set up local salaries above the norm. Gennadiy Burbulis allowed a rise in the salary of miners over the heads of the Supreme Soviet, creating a discrepancy in wages with other sectors.

On this note A.P. Pochinok, chairman of the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet Commission for the Budget, Plans, Taxes, and prices, says that "we" have called for the submission of a single wage system for the Russian Federation before 1 December, so as not to create strike situations by piecemeal rises.

V.S. Sokolov, chairman of the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet subcommission on the budget, notes that the draft decision on budget arrangements will put an end to these arbitrary pay rises.

On the budget for the next quarter, Finance Minister Barchuk remarks that in the first quarter a harsh policy was pursued, so a slight relaxation is permissible in the second quarter.

N.I. Malkov, deputy chairman of the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet Soviet of Nationalities Commission for Questions of Socio-Economic Development, notes the need to pay compensation to pensioners, invalids, and those unemployed in the Far North.

In conclusion, Pochinok says that it is high time to introduce tax cuts, since the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet only agreed to such high taxes for the initial period. These tax cuts are now being hammered out with the government.

Central Bank Chairman Accused of Violations

LD2705162892 Moscow POSTFACTUM in English 1134 GMT 27 May 92

[From the "Domestic Market" section]

[Text] Moscow—Andrey Vavilov, first deputy Russian finance minister, speaking on May 26 at the parliamentary hearings at Russian parliament, further said that decision of the problem of non-solvency of enterprises lies primarily in acceleration of non-cash settlements on money operations. He spoke against an increase in credits, as the sum of non-payments increases in proportion to the volume of crediting of the enterprises.

Vyacheslav Bubnov, deputy chairman of Russian Central Bank, further said that in September this year, 5-thousand ruble banknotes are planned to be issued into circulation. Pavel Medvedev, chairman of the subcommission in charge of the banks of the Russian Supreme Soviet, said at the hearings that Georgiy Matyukhin, chairman of the Russian Central Bank, has been accused of serious violations of the bank law. According to Medvedev, Russian Central Bank stubbornly avoids approval of its estimates and staff by the Supreme Soviet, and this practice cannot be further tolerated. Russian Central Bank leaders should also answer for the catastrophic situation in the country with the cash and the enterprises' non-solvency. As of May 10, their mutual debts reached R [ruble] 1.6 trillion, whereas by today they have probably reached R 2 trillion. At the session of the Supreme Soviet's Presidium, which took place on May 25, a number of measures are to be taken which are supposed to alleviate the current situation. Thus, it is planned to permit direct settlements between commercial banks without the Russian Central Bank, as well as to allow them to issue securities independently. In Medvedev's words, the Presidium agrees that there is a necessity to make personnel changes in the bank leadership. This question will be considered on June 4 at a common session of the chambers of the Supreme Soviet, where Georgiy Matyukhin's report is to be delivered. As became known at the today's hearing at the Russian Supreme Soviet, serious disputes have arisen in the directors' council of the Russian Central Bank. Vyacheslav Bubnov, deputy chairman of Russian Central Bank, spoke on Friday, May 22, at the council against a rise in the credit rate to the commercial banks from 50 per cent to 80 per cent. He was deprived, on Matyukhin's order, of the right to sign the bank documents.

Flaws Predicted in Consumer Cooperatives Law

PM2705104592 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 21 May 92 Morning Edition p 2

[Report by Valeriy Konovalov: "The Consumer Cooperative System Is Being Questioned Together With the Draft Law"]

[Text] On the eve of its upcoming second reading discussion by the Russian Supreme Soviet, the Russian Federation Draft Law "On Consumer Cooperatives in the Russian Federation," which was submitted by the Supreme Soviet Committee for the Social Development of Villages and Agrarian Questions and Food, was unexpectedly questioned in principle—as being unsound in concept.

This was the conclusion drawn by the coalition for parliamentary reforms, which circulated the text of the materials for the hearings on this draft law. (The coalition for parliamentary reforms was formed at the last Congress of Russian Deputies, and is based on the bloc of democratic factions, which includes around 250 people and has a permanently operating apparatus). By all accounts, Vice Premier Ye. Gaydar fully shares the stance of the authors of the circulated materials; he sent a letter in this connection to Russian Supreme Soviet Chairman R. Khasbulatov in which he asks him to postpone the examination of the draft law, which legislatively enshrines the existing structures and monopoly of the consumer cooperatives (Tsentrosoyuz [Central Union of Consumer Societies]), and makes it known that the government intends to prepare proposals on the reorganization of Tsentrosoyuz.

The materials of the coalition for parliamentary reform constitute a critical analysis not just of the draft law itself, but also the state of the whole consumer cooperative system.

Organizations that have existed in our country under the aegis of the consumer cooperative system have not had anything to do with real cooperatives since the times of the civil war, the document maintains. Like kolkhozes [collective farms], they were an appendage of the state structures. Certain data describing the state of the present-day consumer cooperative system are cited for the first time in confirmation of this. Thus, according to the authors' calculations, of 58 million members in the consumer cooperative system, the members-shareholders' aktiv consists of only 2.5 million people or just over 4 percent, whereas there are 3.5 million full-time officials in this system. That means that for tens of millions of shareholders, their whole participation in the activity of the consumer cooperative system boils down to paying their annual membership fees. It is typical that at the consumer cooperatives congress 98 percent of the participants were leaders and other "senior officials" in the system.

In the interests of the state sector, but certainly not in the interests of the shareholders, the amalgamation of enterprises has led to the closure of stores in 36 percent of rural settlements with 5 million inhabitants in all. Only 14 percent of villages with a population of under 100 people have the use of mobile stores. There is no consumer service enterprise in 63 percent of rural settlements.

Analysis has shown that the consumer cooperatives' services for the shareholders themselves are last on the list in the system of priorities in the activity of the consumer cooperatives—after services for state structures, Tsentrosoyuz, regional unions of consumer societies, and other organizations. Of the 23 parameters for services, the shareholders only have four.

Only 3.2 percent of profits are distributed in shares in this system, while the remaining almost 97 percent is in fact in the hands of the apparatus. But deductions from the consumer societies' profits to higher-ranking organizations and centralized funds exceed 40 percent.

According to the coalition for parliamentary reform, the draft law is aimed at consolidating the existing position and preserving the useless pseudo-cooperative system. At the same time, the real revival of a genuine consumer cooperative system is essential today as one of the elements in the cooperative movement. The authors believe that the issue of legislative recognition of the cooperative system is not only a matter of urgency, but that it should already have been resolved long ago, in the sense that Russia needs (at least to begin with) one general law on the cooperative system, and not individual laws on each and every form of cooperative. In their opinion, the proposed "partial" law on the consumer cooperative system is absolutely unnecessary, even regardless of the quality of its draft.

The parliamentary coalition for reforms will make the following proposals to the Supreme Soviet: To elaborate and adopt a single law "On Cooperatives and Cooperative Unions in the Russian Federation," introduce changes and amendments into existing legislation in the interests of developing all forms of cooperative activity, and prepare documents for the reorganization and complete destatization of consumer societies.

Law Passed in Favor of Ethnic Groups

*LD2005133192 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English
1247 GMT 20 May 92*

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Ivan Novikov]

[Text] Moscow May 20 TASS—Not a single ethnic group in the Russian Federation can be resettled from its territory unless it wishes so. This provision is envisaged in the law on the legal status of ethnic groups in the Russian Federation, which was passed in the first reading by the Chamber of Nationalities on Wednesday [20 May].

The law gives these groups the right of ownership on land, resources and water, on the priority development of traditional branches of the economy, and provides an access to state financial or other assistance in order to create the material and technical basis for the economy.

Undoubtedly, the legislative act will be passed in a second reading after the bill is revised to accommodate several significant amendments suggested by deputies. The significance of the current law lies in providing legal guarantees for the revival, preservation and development of ethnic groups in Russia, as well as safeguards for their rights and interests.

The bill stipulates that an ethnic group may not number more than 50,000 people. The bill draws a difference between an ethnic group and a national minority: The former lives on its traditional territory and does not have state formations outside the Russian Federation. Deputies stressed that the new law lays down a good basis for further elaboration of the legislation on ethnic groups.

Parliament To Review 1962 Novocherkassk Events

*OW2205212492 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1905 GMT 22 May 92*

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Russian Parliament Friday [22 May] passed a resolution "On the Events in Novocherkassk in June, 1962".

In early summer of 1962 party organs ordered the military to open fire on demonstrators in Novocherkassk who were protesting price hikes on food products coupled with salary cuts. Law enforcement bodies report that 24 demonstrators were killed, including four minors and 3 women, 87 people were injured. 114 participants of the mass disturbance were tried, several people were sentenced to death. As of May 1992, 19 convicted participants of the Novocherkassk events still had not been rehabilitated.

The Parliament directed the General Prosecutor to review the cases of the participants of the Novocherkassk events within two weeks and make appeals where necessary. The Ministry of Social Welfare was ordered to consider one-time compensatory payments to the families of the deceased, and those who were sentenced to death.

Resolution on Funding May-Jun Expenditure Eyed

PM2705084592 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 25 May 92 First Edition p 2

["Russian Federation Supreme Soviet Resolution on Financing the Russian Federation's Republic Expenditure in May-June 1992", signed by R.I. Khasbulatov, chairman of the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet, and dated Moscow, Russian House of Soviets, 22 May 1992, No. 2819-1]

[Text] The Russian Federation Supreme Soviet resolves:

1. To accept the Russian Federation Government's proposal to examine materials on the Russian Federation's budget system for the second quarter of 1992 within the context of the Russian Federation's republic budget for 1992.

2. The Russian Federation Government is to present to the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet not later than 1 June 1992 a draft Russian Federation budget system for 1992.

3. Pending the adoption of a Russian Federation Law "On the Russian Federation Budget System for 1992":

a) the Russian Federation Government is to be permitted to finance the Russian Federation republic budget's expenditure within the limits permitted for the first quarter of 1992, with an increase indexed to changes in prices, and to allocate subsidies from the Russian Federation republic budget to the budgets of national-state and administrative-territorial formations, should they lack sufficient income to finance social programs;

b) it is to be established that the income of the Russian Federation republic budget is to be derived from:

—value added tax;

—excise duties on potable spirits, vodka, and liqueur and vodka products, and passenger vehicles (except for cars sold for personal use);

—revenue from export duties;

c) a tax on the profits of enterprises, associations, and organizations at a rate of 13 percent is to be paid into the Russian Federation republic budget;

d) the Russian Federation Government is to be allowed to transfer to the budgets of the republics that belong to the Russian Federation and to the budgets of krays, oblasts, the autonomous oblast, autonomous okrugs, and the cities of Moscow and St. Petersburg:

—20 percent of the revenue from value added tax;

—50 percent of the revenue from excise on potable spirit, vodka, and liqueur and vodka products;

—remaining federal excise duties (with the exception of excise duties on passenger cars).

4. To accept the Russian Federation Government's proposal to grant to the Russian Federation Ministry of Finance in the second quarter of 1992 Russian Central Bank credits to the tune of 170 billion rubles [R] to cover the Russian Federation republic budget deficit, to be repaid in equal installments over a period of 10 years from 1996 onward at an interest rate of 10 per cent per annum.

5. The adoption by the Russian Federation Government of decisions on the expenditure of resources in breach of the RSFSR Law "On the Fundamentals of Budget Structure and the Budget Process in the RSFSR" is to be deemed impermissible.

It is noted that the Russian Federation Government constantly violates the procedures and timetable for presenting the budget; the contents of the budget message does not fully correspond to the indicated law.

6. The Russian Federation Government:

is to bring the mechanism for coordinating the Russian Federation republic budget and territorial budgets into line with the provisions of the Russian Federation Constitution;

is to present for examination by the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet by 1 September 1992 a single system for paying workers of budget-funded organizations.

7. The Russian Federation Government and the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet Soviet of the Republic Commission for the Budget, Plans, Taxes, and Prices is to make provision in the Russian Federation budget for 1992 for the necessary resources to compensate for expenses connected with traveling from regions of the Far North and localities of equivalent status to employees of budget-funded institutions and organizations who have worked not less than three years in these regions, and 50 percent of these expenses to pensioners, invalids, and people who have lost their jobs and are registered as unemployed in regions of the Far North and localities of equivalent status, and to persons who have worked not less than three years at state enterprises

situated in the indicated regions and localities, with the aim of compensating the indicated expenses from May 1992.

8. The present resolution is to be published in the press.

9. The Russian Federation Supreme Soviet Soviet of the Republic Commission for the Budget, Plans, Taxes, and Prices is charged with monitoring fulfillment of the present resolution.

Clause on Appeal Against Arrest Debated

PM2705095992 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 25 May 92 First Edition p 1

[Report by parliamentary correspondent Aleksandr Linkov: "Fourth Session of the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet: Appeal Against Arrest Made Possible"]

[Text] Trying to get on with its schedule of work, the Russian Supreme Soviet continued its work last Saturday, 23 May. Three questions were submitted for discussion by the joint session of parliament. It was to consider the draft patent law at second reading, discuss a Supreme Soviet resolution on the food supply system on railroad transport and in the maritime and river fleets, and continue the second reading of the draft Russian Federation Law "On Introduction of Amendments and Additions to the Russian Federation Code of Criminal Procedure."

The second reading of the patent law did not take place, due to inadequate technical preparation.

The Supreme Soviet resolution on the food supply system on railroad transport and in the maritime and river fleets was adopted without further questions or discussion. President Boris Yeltsin had requested that the Supreme Soviet study this question.

Until quite recently, the supply of food on these transport lines of the single Union state was handled by workers supply organizations [organizatsii rabochego snabzheniya]. Now everything has changed radically. There is no Union, market relations are being introduced, and privatization is under way. There have already been some attempts here and there to take over the workers supply organizations. The upshot is that the passengers will simply be forgotten. The president proposed leaving the entire food supply system on railroad transport and in the maritime and river fleets in federal ownership.

The major part of Saturday's session was spent discussing the second reading of the draft Law "On Introduction of Amendments and Additions to the Russian Federation Code of Criminal Procedure." The essence of this law is that citizens should have the right to a judicial review of arrest. It is recognized by the Declaration of Human Rights and Freedoms, adopted by the Congress of People's Deputies. The declaration proclaims the right of every individual to freedom and personal inviolability, and to appeal to the courts against actions by state organs and officials who infringe citizens' rights. It is no secret to anyone that hundreds of people are held in custody in remand centers in our country, who are subsequently found to be innocent. There were 1,521 such people in 1990, and more than 1,700 last year. In the opinion of Deputy Viktor Veremchuk, the adoption of this law would put an end to this legal arbitrariness.

A fundamental argument developed at the session over the idea underlying the bill. In the opinion of Boris Zolotukhin, deputy chairman of the Legislation Committee, who presented it at the session, the courts should examine both the legality of an arrest and the justification for detention in custody. Russian General Prosecutor Valentin Stepankov introduced several amendments to the draft, upholding the idea that the courts should have the right to review the legality of an arrest. It should not be involved in anything else. But the majority of the general prosecutor's amendments found no support from parliamentarians. Thus, soon after the law comes into force (and this will happen after its official publication), the accused or his defense attorney will have the right to appeal to the courts against an illegal or unjustified arrest. The rights and obligations of the suspected or accused person's defense attorney are also significantly expanded.

Bill on Trade Concessions, Contracts Drafted

OW2705130792 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1043 GMT 27 May 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] *** In Russia the Parliamentary Committee on International Affairs and Foreign Trade has drafted a bill concerning concession agreements and contracts on dividing produce. Next week the draft will be submitted to the parliament's presidium and to the relevant departments, a leading member of the committee, Sergey Tsyplakov, told IF [INTERFAX]. Foreign experts, he said, took no part in working out the draft. Russian specialists turned to them only for consultations.

S.Tsyplakov made no prognostications as to how soon the Russian Parliament will adopt the bill. According to information available to IF, it is likely to happen this summer.

Regional Affairs

Yeltsin Continues Tour of Altay Territory

Addresses Barnaul Administration

LD2805101692 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0958 GMT 28 May 92

[By ITAR-TASS special correspondents Lyudmila Aleksandrova, Valentin Pavlov and Gennadiy Talalayev]

[Text] Barnaul (Altay territory) May 28 TASS—"The socio-political situation in Russia is difficult and forces opposed to the reforms are beginning to rear their heads. We are faced with a constitutional crisis," President Yeltsin stated on Wednesday [27 May], addressing a meeting of public representatives and heads of the local administration in Barnaul.

(Yeltsin is currently on a 4-day working tour of Altay territory and the Buryat Republic. He arrived in Ulan-Ude, the capital of Buryatia, today).

The Russian president stressed in his speech that he planned to ask the parliament for the right to hold referendums in light of the existing situation. In case of refusal, he will move to collect one million signatures necessary to hold a referendum on key principles of the new constitution and on private land ownership. Yeltsin again said he would not resign, although many people want him to step down.

Dwelling on CIS problems, Yeltsin denounced sceptical views on the Commonwealth, since it "contributes to the solution of quite a few problems, primarily economic ones". He said the latest Tashkent summit was the most resultative of all CIS meetings. According to the president, "a military alliance was, in fact, set up" during that summit. "Today, it includes five states, but several others will join it shortly," he added.

Turning to inter-ethnic conflicts in CIS countries, Yeltsin said they should be settled by political means. According to the president, there was an extremely acute situation in Moldova today. "I categorically deny the Moldovan president's charges that the 14th Army had started hostilities on the side of the Dniester Republic on orders from the Russian leadership," Yeltsin stated. According to Yeltsin, there was a veritable hysteria in Moldova today, even calls to declare war on Russia. "We shall withdraw the 14th Army from Moldova to Russian territory and shall not allow Russia to be drawn into this war," Yeltsin stated.

Expounding on the economic reform, Yeltsin recalled that it was being implemented according to a "tough version", which was largely necessitated by the 70-year grave legacy left behind by Soviet government. "The CPSU, not rank-and-file communists, must be put to trial for everything that was done during those years," he added.

The president rejected claims that the reforms were proceeding haphazardly. "We have a strategy and are resorting to flexible tactics," he stressed, adding that nobody has so far advanced any real alternative to them. "At the same time," Yeltsin noted, "they could proceed at a more rapid pace, if the regions of Russia were more active." Turning to the system of the population's social protection, Yeltsin noted that it proved, unfortunately, unprepared for the reforms. It was necessary to create flexible mechanisms already during the reforms, but it was impossible to avoid mistakes and delays. For instance, from two to three months were needed to recalculate pensions.

Yeltsin noted that the International Monetary Fund obliged Russia to liberate prices for fuel as of April 15, but this would have been "suicidal—prices would have soared tens of times over". Yeltsin reiterated his recent statement that the IMF "will never dictate anything to us". "We have our own policy, our own programme of reforms and we shall implement them," the president said.

Rejects Snegur Charges on 14th Army

OW2705190292 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1849 GMT 27 May 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] President Yeltsin rejected outright accusations by his Moldovan countperpart, Mircea Snegur, that the 14th army had engaged in military operations in Moldova on orders by the Russian leadership. In a speech to local administrators and public officials in Barnaul on Wednesday [28 May], Mr Yeltsin warned against fears of war saying the 14th army would be withdrawn and Russia would not be dragged into war.

And he also spoke of seeking a political solution to the existing conflicts.

On the situation within the Commonwealth of Independent States, Mr. Yeltsin pointed to the importance of CIS's role in solving political, economic and military issues, which were vital to the former Soviet republics. He warned against scepticism about the organisation.

The president described as complicated the social and economic situation in Russia blaming it both for objective reasons and government mistakes. However, he warned that communist forces were preparing for a comeback by playing on those mistakes. Mr Yeltsin spoke of a constitutional crisis and pointed to the confrontation between the executive and legislative as one consequence.

He said Russia had embarked on austerity as an option for its economic reform blaming the Soviet communist party which led the country to ruin and the people to impoverishment.

"The party must be brought to account," Mr Yeltsin said amid applause from the audience.

He also spoke of wanting to get a parliamentary approval for Russia's new constitution and the question of private ownership to be put for national referendum. One other way of holding it, he said, would be to collect one million signatures in support of a referendum.

Mr Yeltsin also proposed that the referendum should include the question of presidency as a form of government with an aim of consolidating the hand of the executive. However, he gave assurances that he would not stifle democracy, calling for a more flexible government policy.

On an anti-government rally in Barnaul on Wednesday in support of demands for his resignation, Mr Yeltsin said that there was just a crowd of 50 people, adding he would not be forced to step down, at least while in office.

The president is due to fly to Ulan Ude, the capital of the Buryat autonomy, on Thursday.

Not To Seek Second Term

PM2705210392 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 28 May 92 Morning Edition p 1

[Report by Vasiliy Kononenko: "B. Yeltsin: I Firmly Intend To Fight For Reforms"]

[Text] Barnaul—President B. Yeltsin began his four-day trip to Altay and Buryatia with a series of statements which refute the prevalent assumption that he has decided to withdraw from the confrontation in the capital, not wishing to arouse emotions.

Here are some of the things he said at Barnaul airport and then during conversations with locals on 26 May.

"I am still confident that the wave of problems in the economy will be stemmed in the fall.

"Yesterday I had a talk with L. Kravchuk on his initiative. It was agreed that there would be a 'three-a-side'—president and heads of parliament and government on both sides—meeting in the first 10 days of June. In Dagomys, perhaps. I am convinced, the president said, that many matters can be settled at this meeting."

"Won't there be a war?" the people of Barnaul asked him?

"No, there won't," B. Yeltsin confidently replied.

"During the telephone conversation," the president continued, "it was also decided that the foreign and defense ministers of Russia, Ukraine, and Moldova would meet in the next two days in Odessa to find a solution to the question of the Dniester Region and the 14th Army."

"As for the referendum which the communists want in order to secure my resignation, I can say that there is no legal basis for a plebiscite. I firmly intend to fight for the reforms, to remain in my post until the term expires. I will not be running for a second term. It is too heavy a burden. The reforms must continue, otherwise we will be set back decades."

"I have long wanted to hold a referendum to secure the right to buy and sell land since neither parliament nor Congress is prepared to adopt such a law. You have to gather signatures for that," the president said.

The people of Barnaul suggested that he raise the question of television, and he agreed.

The president was just as energetic and confident on day two of his stay in Altay, ignoring the action organized by local Bolsheviks: They are collecting signatures to secure his resignation.

B. Yeltsin visited the "Altayskiy Motornyy Zavod" association, where they make engines for tractors and for "Ikarusz" buses, fuel pumps, and other equipment. The situation there is difficult. The workers are frightened of privatization, most likely because of the many uncertainties. They complained about the high cost of living and low pay, although prices in Barnaul are lower than in Moscow and the stores are certainly not empty. People are angry also because there has been no sugar in the city for ages and there is no cash to pay people with. B. Yeltsin replied, saying that the sugar problem in Russia would be resolved by the fall. "I have reached agreement with Fidel Castro, and 1.5 million tonnes of sugar is already on its way from Cuba. We are constructing sugar refineries. As for money, an aircraft is bringing 500 million rubles [R] in cash so that pay can be issued. We will resolve the cash problem on 12 July by issuing R5,000 banknotes."

Then the president visited a peasant farm in the village of Buranovo, which is 35 kilometers from Barnaul. One year ago nine people left the sovkhoz, obtained parcels of land, and started organizing a proper peasant farm. But they are still not being given goods and chattels and there is fierce antagonism between the different forms of ownership. Representatives of the kolkhoz-sovkhoz system and the nomenklatura will try any tricks to prevent individuals from making a go of it. The president sympathized with the farmers' anger and promised to help.

Predicts Victory in CPSU Trial

LD2705194392 Moscow Programma Radio Odin Network in Russian 1500 GMT 27 May 92

[Report by Tatyana Blinova and Anatoliy Volkhov on visit by President Boris Yeltsin to Altay]

[Excerpts] [Blinova] Due to price rises, the construction of a bridge that would allow Barnaul to spread to the right bank of the Ob river is in jeopardy. The people who are building the bridge have gained the president's support. A serious conversation with the workers took place at the Altay engine producing association. Along with production issues, the people wanted Yeltsin to tell them when their lives would stop getting worse. The last difficulty, the president assured them, was the jump in energy prices—after this there will be no more reasons why the cost of living should increase. The fact that wages grew faster than prices in April indicates that the turning point where the citizens' standards of living will start to grow is now near. The end of this year is the deadline for a stabilization in the situation.

[Volkhov] I was present at the president's meeting with Altay farmer Vladimir Shatilo. [passage omitted] The topic of the soviets and the Congress of People's Deputies was discussed, by the way. Boris Yeltsin confirmed once again his opinion that the Congress of People's Deputies has outlived itself. He also gave an assurance that the referendum on land will take place.

In connection with the session of the Constitutional Court, local Communists tried to attract attention to themselves. [Words indistinct] at a rally attended by about 50 people they demanded Yeltsin's resignation. For his part, at a conference with the kray's activists Yeltsin gave an emphatic no and said they should not count on it. To your correspondent's question as to the president's assessment of the decision of the Constitutional Court, Boris Yeltsin gave the following answer:

[Begin Yeltsin recording] The issue was considered yesterday. And so, in connection with the fact that two petitions have been received—one is a complaint from a group of deputies that the decrees of Russia's president banning the CPSU and the Russian Communist Party [RCP] are unconstitutional, and the other is a petition to the Constitutional Court from a group of deputies that argues that the existence of the CPSU and the RCP is entirely unconstitutional—then the Constitutional Court, during yesterday's discussion of these issues, decided to combine the two lawsuits into one trial; to invite to the discussion those who were the leaders of these organizations at the time of the decrees—i.e. Gorbachev, Kuptsov, and Polozkov—and to hold the first meeting for dealing with this combined issue on 7 July. I think we are bound to win. This will be a real Nuremberg trial. Since we have combined the two cases, this means we will be putting the CPSU on trial. [end recording]

Provides Wages for Altay Workers

LD2705154192 Moscow POSTFACTUM in English 1519 GMT 27 May 92

[From the "Politics" section]

[Text] Barnaul—Russian President Boris Yeltsin: The price surge in connection with the increase in energy prices will be the last in 1992.

Addressing a meeting with residents of Barnaul on May 27, Yeltsin also stated prices will be stabilized by the end of this year and possibly earlier. Yeltsin said 1993 would witness a gradual fall in prices with the simultaneous growth of wages. He said that he brought 500 million roubles so that wages to the residents of Altay be paid on time.

During the tour of Barnaul's shops, Yeltsin noted food prices are lower there than in Moscow and the range of products should satisfy any customer. However, Yeltsin said the price for eggs was unjustifiably high. He thinks they should cost from 16 to 21 roubles per dozen.

A spokesman in the territorial administration told PF [POSTFACTUM] the programme of Yeltsin's visit includes, in addition to protocol events, a tour of the Luch peasant farmstead in the Steppe zone of Altay territory and the Altay motor plant which faces the threat of mass unemployment. Some local economists predict 6,000 people, a third of the plant's worker collective, may lose their jobs in the next few months.

The visit of areas that suffered from the impact of the Semipalatinsk nuclear test range and also the German national district, the first in the Russian Federation, formed in July 1991, were stricken off the programme of Yeltsin's visit. The visit of Yeltsin, who arrived in Altay on May 26, will last until May 28.

Addresses Semipalatinsk Issue

LD2805102292 Moscow POSTFACTUM in English 0943 GMT 28 May 92

[From the "Politics" section]

[Text] Moscow—On May 27 during his visit to Altay area, Boris Yeltsin, Russian president, said that it is necessary to set up in Russia president's republic. At a meeting with representatives of the administration and public, Boris Yeltsin further said that the current transitional period demands to set up a powerful executive authority which would be a guarantor of democracy. He said that in case of refusal of the Russian Supreme Soviet to grant to him a right of carrying out the referendum on main principles of the constitution and land reform, he is going to address the people with a request to collect 1 million of signatures which are necessary for the referendum.

As President Boris Yeltsin said, in Moldova at present hysteria is going on and anti-Russian attitudes stepped up. I categorically deny participation of the 14th Army in the conflict on the order of the Russian Government, Yeltsin said and declared that Russia plans to withdraw the 14th Army to the territory of Russia.

Boris Yeltsin spoke in favor of the necessity to carry out a court action against CPSU. According to him, not communists, but the CPSU as a criminal organization will be the object of the court action.

President of Russia said that the government program exists for a period of 10 years. In his mind, this does not mean that he will remain in his post of Russian president for this term.

According to Boris Yeltsin, he gave an order to find the people who had signed in 1949 a decree on explosions at the Semipalatinsk testing area with the winds which were blowing towards Altay area. If these people are alive, it is necessary to take a legal action against them, as this was a crime against humanity, Boris Yeltsin said. Russian president also categorically spoke against a transfer of Kuril Islands to Japan.

Boris Yeltsin said that the former party apparatus officials had hidden themselves in various structures and sabotage carrying out the economic reforms. In his words, sabotage is going on also in the security organs. In the opinion of President Boris Yeltsin, the normal level of profitability of the plants lies at 15-35 per cent, whereas the Russian Government plans to restrict this level inside 50 per cent.

Boris Yeltsin said that it is necessary to introduce president hour on the TV once a month. Boris Yeltsin said that it is necessary to take a legal action against the director of the state farm Pribrezhniy of Kalman district (Altay area), who granted to the farmer Vladimir Shatilo, whose agricultural lands Boris Yeltsin visited in the morning of May 27, the land in eight different places.

Sees No Threat of Hyperinflation

OW2705185992 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1748 GMT 27 May 92

[Prepared by Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Vladimir Shishlin; edited by Boris Grishchenko; from "Presidential Bulletin"; transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] President Yeltsin, touring eastern Russia, promised workers of an engine-manufacturing plant in Altay on Wednesday [27 May] to resolve the issue of back pay. He spoke of the arrival of an aircraft carrying a total of Rbl [rubles] 501 million soon after his own.

The president warned the workforce of that leading farm equipment plant about a new round of price rises giving assurances that it would be the last one before stabilisation. In spite of further inflation, he said, "Russia is not under threat of hyperinflation". On fears about redundancy, Mr Yeltsin said he would do his utmost to stave off unemployment. He also promised further social security measures next month in areas of education, health and law enforcement.

IF [INTERFAX] note: Mr Yeltsin explained a new round of inflation by rising fuel prices. He promised that stabilisation would follow next adding he "will never go back on his words".

On trouble spots in Russia and on its borders, the president told workers that defence and foreign ministers of Russia, Ukraine and Moldova would gather for what he described as an important meeting. And he added "We'll try to avert war in Moldova".

IF note: The Russian foreign ministry says ministers of the three countries will meet in Chisinau on May 29.

Mr Yeltsin's second day of a tour of Altay was focused on fledgling private farmers. He was told at one of the farmsteads that farmers wanted nothing from the authorities but strict observance of the Russian legislation on land and property rights.

Special correspondent for IF news agency Boris Grishchenko says Mr Yeltsin is no hurry to draw conclusions from what he saw in Altay territory but he promised to air his own views at a conference of local administrators in Barnaul on Wednesday night.

Speaking in an interview with IF on arrival in Barnaul yesterday, Mr Yeltsin said many of the problems of Russian reform, including privatisation and commercilisation in the industrial, farming and distribution sectors were vivid in the region. He spoke of being aware of thorny questions and criticism adding "I am open to it. I prefer to visit places where things are harder than elsewhere."

Yeltsin Departs for Ulan-Ude

LD2805043592 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0416 GMT 28 May 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Valentin Pavlov]

[Text] Barnaul, 28 May—Russian President Boris Yeltsin left Barnaul for Ulan-Ude this morning. The progress of reforms in all the kray's industries was analyzed at a meeting with the Altay leadership and it was noted that radical transformations are taking place slowly, with opposition to them particularly noticeable in the countryside. Measures to stabilize the kray's finances and banking and on the financing and material and technical supplies for important construction work have been examined and adopted. On his own initiative, the president met with the heads of local administrations, chairmen of the town and rayon soviets, and the kray's public on 27 May.

Summing up the results of his visit to the Altay, Boris Yeltsin noted that there is no alternative to the reforms being carried out. "The majority of the kray's population, as I was able to satisfy myself, are for the reforms," he said.

Yeltsin Arrives in Buryatia

LD2805073192 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English
0706 GMT 28 May 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Lyudmila Aleksandrova, Gennadiy Talalayev and Sergey Trofimov]

[Text] Ulan-Ude May 28 TASS—We shall discuss ecology of Lake Baykal and of the territory of the Baykal-Amur railroad as well as the revival of the Buryat national culture, Russian President Boris Yeltsin told ITAR-TASS on his arrival in Ulan-Ude. This is Yeltsin's first visit there since after the signing of the federative treaty.

Yeltsin said he brought a package of economic agreements between Russia and the Buryat Republic which he was going to discuss in Ulan-Ude. Religious issues are very important—we shall also discuss the restoration of the Buryat temples, Yeltsin said.

From the airport Yeltsin was taken to a largest meat processing factory in the region.

International Affairs

Spokesman Says Russian Meeting Only 'Tentative'

OW2705192192 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1750 GMT 27 May 92

[Prepared by Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Vladimir Shishlin; edited by Boris Grishchenko; from "Presidential Bulletin"; transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The press secretary of the Ukrainian president, Vladimir Shlyaposhnikov, told IF [INTERFAX] on Wednesday [27 May] that he had no information about the agenda of a Ukrainian-Russian summit. He also said that Mr Kravchuk's conversation with Mr Yeltsin was of tentative nature and to the best of his knowledge, there was no final agreement.

IF note: Before his departure to Barnaul yesterday, Mr Yeltsin told reporters that he had a telephone conversation with Mr Kravchuk on Monday [25 May] night and of the agreement reached on holding a Russian-Ukrainian summit in the first decade of June including the two presidents, their prime ministers and the speakers of parliament. Mr Yeltsin also hoped that a private meeting with the Ukrainian president would help take some of the thornier issues, including the Black Sea Fleet, off the agenda. That the Ukrainian leader should phone him "late on Monday night" was seen by Mr Yeltsin as Mr Kravchuk's "response to the bilateral agreement between Russia and Kazakhstan".

Mr Kravchuk's press secretary meanwhile made it clear that the telephone conversation was mainly caused by a flare up of tension in Trans-Dniester. Mr Shlyaposhnikov also pointed to Mr Kravchuk's reply to a question at a news conference in Tallinn about Ukraine's possible reaction in the event of Moldova's declaration of war on Russia. The Ukrainian leader said the question was one of relations between Moldova and Russia alone stressing that Ukraine was opposed to further bloodletting. And in this connection, Mr Kravchuk said he'd offered Mr Yeltsin to hold a meeting of defence and foreign ministers of Russiav Ukraine and Moldova, and discussed the possibility of an early trio summit "if necessary".

Mr Shlyaposhnikov also commented on Mr Kravchuk's statements in Tallinn saying that further deployment of troops, now under Russia's jurisdiction, in Moldova and the Baltic states was of no expediency. The press secretary said that in both cases, Mr Kravchuk had called for troop withdrawals, qualifying the troops in Moldova as foreign. In Mr Kravchuk's view, the troops stationed in the Baltic states must be withdrawn as soon as possible, but he mentioned no dates.

On the Ukrainian leader's immediate plans, Mr Shlyaposhnikov said Mr Kravchuk was due to meet with the German Chancellor's personal envoy tonight, and with officials of the Ukrainian Teenager Art Centre whose board of governors he chairs on Thursday [28 May] morning.

Politics Influence Economic Ties With Russia

LD2705184192 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in English 1513 GMT 27 May 92

[Text] The political factor is greatly influencing Ukrainian-Russian economic relations. This was declared yesterday for Ukrainian TV by the vice premier of Ukraine, minister of economy, Volodymyr Lanovyy. There are people in Russia especially in its parliament who want to teach Ukraine a lesson for its option of an independent way of development. Volodymyr Lanovyy expressed hope that sober mindedness will finally win, and threatening attempts of our neighbors are temporary.

More on Democratic Party Statement on Moldova

LD2605022192 Kiev UKRINFORM in Ukrainian 1025 GMT 25 May 92

[By UKRINFORM correspondent A.A. Litvinov]

[Text] Kiev, 25 May—The Democratic Party of Ukraine describes the interference in the conflict in the Dniester area by the vehicles of the 14th Army of Russia as direct, open aggression against the Republic of Moldova, says a statement adopted by the Presidium of the party's National Council.

The statement stresses that the demonstration of "weakness" by the Army command against the guardsmen of the so-called "Dniester Republic" in defending their weapons is nothing but lies and hypocrisy directed at helping the separatists obtain armored vehicles for their armed formations. Who will believe, the statement asks, that trained soldiers from the regular forces would give up dozens of tanks and armored personnel carriers without resistance?

The Democratic Party supports the demands of the leadership of the Republic of Moldova on the immediate withdrawal of the 14th Army from the Dniester area and calls for a peaceful solution to the conflict, for the inviolability of borders and the territorial integrity of states, for securing ethnic-cultural rights, and for fulfilling the needs of all citizens residing on the territory of Moldova.

The democrats call on the politicians, servicemen, and the people of Russia, Ukraine, and Moldova to make every effort to put out the dangerous fire of conflict as quickly as possible.

Country Intends To Settle CEMA Debts

LD2805113892 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in English 0000 GMT 28 May 92

[Text] Ukraine will settle the debt which emerged as a result of goods supplies from the countries of Eastern Europe within the framework of the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance [CEMA] to the Soviet Union. This was declared by the First Deputy Foreign Minister of Ukraine Mykola Makarevych.

This issue cropped up in connection with the fact that during the recent Ukrainian-Hungarian and Ukrainian-Czechoslovak Government meetings our neighbours raised this issue, but is is necessary to determine the number of goods, said Mykola Makarevych, which were delivered to each of the republics. The demands of the government of these countries are fully justified, but we want this issue to be settled in a just way and in the interest of Ukrainian people, indicated the first deputy foreign minister of Ukraine.

National Affairs

Ukraine Responds To Russian Crimea Decision

PM2705141992 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 26 May 92 Morning Edition p 1

[Report by Sergey Tsikora: "Ukraine Will Not Have Talks with Russia on Crimea"]

[Text] Kiev—Ukraine's first reaction to the Russian parliament's decision to denounce the 1954 act on the Crimea has emerged.

Two extreme positions have emerged primarily. The newspaper of the Ukrainian Supreme Soviet cites Russian parliamentarian S. Baburin's words during a meeting with V. Kryzhanovskiy, Ukrainian ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to Russia:

"Unless we take Crimea from you, a war will begin between Russia and Ukraine."

This statement by the leader of the Russian nationals was answered by the no less extreme organization in Ukraine—the Ukrainian National Assembly—with its own "slogan of the day": "Crimea will be Ukrainian or will not be inhabited at all."

Fortunately, more moderate politicians occupied the space between these two extreme viewpoints. While the official text of the Russian parliament's decision on the 1954 act was not yet available, a news conference was held in Kiev by V. Durdinets, first deputy chairman of the Ukrainian Supreme Soviet, who headed the delegation at the meeting with Russian Federation deputies. He announced that the Ukrainian Supreme Soviet Presidium had been informed of the results of the meeting but so far had not adopted any official reply to the Russian parliament. Nonetheless V. Durdinets deemed it necessary to state that "we treat the claims to the Crimea as an encroachment on Ukraine's territorial integrity. These claims have no legal force and therefore will not have any legal consequences."

The statement by the Ukrainian foreign minister may be regarded as the first official reaction to the Russian parliament's step. The statement says that the resolution adopted by the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet on the legal assessment of the 1954 act "is assessed by Ukraine as a step which runs counter to the norms and principles of modern international law and it is fraught with dangerous and unpredictable consequences." The unilateral attempt, the statement continues, to cast doubt through legislation on the lawfulness of existing borders between two sovereign states which belong to the United Nations and the renunciation of commitments which have been assumed, including commitments under the 19 November 1990 treaty between the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic and the Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic and the 8 December 1991 agreement on the creation of the CIS, could lead to violations of stability on the continent.

Therefore the republic intends to act as follows. "Ukraine has been recognized by the states of the world, including the Russian Federation, within the framework of its existing borders, including the territory of the Crimea. Consequently, the question of the Crimea's status is an internal matter for Ukraine and cannot be the subject of talks with other states."

It looks as though the Russian and Ukrainian diplomats will not have any restful days in the immediate future. It is sad that parties and movements have started to be dragged in to this settling of relations. A meeting with an overtly anti-Russian orientation was held for the first time this weekend in Kiev.

Supreme Rada Official Discusses Crimean Issue

LD2705173592 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in English 1107 GMT 26 May 92

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Here is how deputy chairman of the Supreme Rada, Vasyl Durdinets, expressed Ukraine's stand on the Crimean issue.

[Durdinets] We underline that this is the quite natural right of the Russian MP's [members of parliament] to discuss this or that question but we have also got the right to express our own point of view as to the problems concerning Ukraine, its sovereignty, and territorial integrity as well as the Ukraine's future [word indistinct] from the destinies of millions Ukrainians. First in accordance with the Ukrainian constitution the Crimea is a part of Ukraine and the territory of Ukraine includes the territory of the Crimea. Second, namely under these conditions Ukraine was recognized by more than 120 states of the world community including the Russian Federation, too, and this fact testifies to the legal status of Ukraine's borders and the territories. The third, according to the constitution of Ukraine all the questions connected with the transformation of the state frontiers of Ukraine should be solved by the highest bodies of the state power of this country. Then the relations between Ukraine and the Crimea are the Ukraine's home problems and that is why from the point of view both of the Ukraine's legislation and international law any other countries should not discuss our home problems, said Vasyl Durdinets. [passage omitted]

Crimean Party Leader Favors Staying in Ukraine

LD2705201992 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1600 GMT 27 May 92

[Text] Yuriy Komov, leader of the Democratic Crimea movement, which is in opposition to the Crimean Republican Movement, has spoken at a news conference in Kiev in favor of a union between Russia, Ukraine, and Byelarus and in favor of Crimea staying part of Ukraine as a federal land.

Komov put forward information gathered in a sociological poll showing that 22 percent of Crimean inhabitants are fully in favor of the peninsula's secession from Ukraine. The same number of people are categorically against it; 48 percent have not yet decided on this problem. This was reported by the Kharkov Novosti agency.

Crimeans Threaten Civil Disobedience Campaign

OW2705123292 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1043 GMT 27 May 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Republican Movement of the Crimea has urged the population of the Crimea to launch a campaign for convening an extraordinary session of the Crimean Parliament on May 28 in order to review the parliament's decision of May 21 on cancelling the referendum on the Crimea's state independence.

The RMC's appeal to the residents of the Crimea, published on Wednesday [27 May] says that "if the demands of the people of the Crimea are neglected, the RMC reserves for itself the right to call on the Crimean population to stage acts of civil disobedience.

The appeal says that the cancellation of the referendum by the Crimean Parliament under the pressure of Kiev goes against the republican laws. "The will of the people of the Crimea has been ignored to please politicians, and the Declaration of Human Rights has been violated," the RMC leaders stated.

Situation at Moldovan Border Reported Calm

AU2705174792 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1300 GMT 27 May 92

[Text] We were informed by the Press Service of Ukraine's Border Troops that yesterday their commander Colonel General Valeriy Hubenko left for Odessa Oblast together with reporters. Anatoliy (?Sumarchenko), a representative of the Press Service, who told us about this, added that the situation at the border between Ukraine and Moldova remains calm. The arrival there of subdivisions of the Ukrainian National Guard has not given rise to a destabilization, contrary to assertions by some mass media. Thorough control is being exercised over cargo and persons crossing the border to prevent violations of corresponding laws and regulations.

Long-Range Aviation Units Jurisdiction Claimed

PM2605152592 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 22 May 92 p 3

[Report by correspondent Colonel A. Polyakov under the "Direct Line" rubric: "Ukraine Sets Up Long-Range Air Grouping"]

[Text] Kiev, 21 May—In accordance with a decree by Ukrainian President L. Kravchuk and an order by Defense Minister Colonel General K. Morozov, long-range air units stationed on the republic's territory are subordinate to the Ukrainian Defense Ministry. Those that have nuclear weapons in their arsenal remain only operationally subordinate to the commander of strategic forces of the CIS Joint Armed Forces. Division Commander Major General of Aviation V. Grebennikov and Colonels of Aviation B.Yu. Kozhin and P. Androsov, commanders of long-range air regiments, who did not wish to serve in the Ukrainian Armed Forces, have been removed from their posts, and other officers have been appointed temporarily to replace them.

Byelarus

Defense Minister Outlines Cuts in Armed Forces

OW2305164392 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1620 GMT 23 May 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Substantial cuts in the armed forces will take place in Byelarus this year, Defense Minister Colonel-General [Cl.-General] Pavel Kozlovskiy told newsmen in Minsk on Friday [22 May]. According to him, 62 large military units will be disbanded before 1993 and 20 to 22 thousand officers will have to retire in the next 2 or 3 years. The head of the Byelarusian military establishment intends to reduce the number of troops by 40% to retain only land, air and air-defense forces where no more than 95 thousand men will undergo their military service. He said he intends to reduce by 40% the number of generals on his ministry's staff and in the armed forces, and cut the staff of the Byelarusian Defense Ministry by 20%.

Cl.-General Kozlovskiy believes that his short-term goal is to develop a defense doctrine and destroy the vestiges of the old offensive doctrine. The minister stated that at present the offensive potential of Byelarus is considered to be the greatest in Europe; as for the number of tanks and some other military equipment, his republic is unequalled.

Answering IF's [INTERFAX] question as to the destiny of these tanks, Kozlovskiy said: "It will be decided in Oslo on June 5 at a meeting to be held by the foreign ministers of countries involved in the North-Atlantic Cooperation Council. Surplus tanks will be destroyed". It was decied to scrap the tanks at Byelarusian smelting plants.

Premier Kebich Ends 3-Day Visit to Kuwait

LD2705112392 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0904 GMT 27 May 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Aleksandr Yelistratov]

[Text] Cairo, May 27 TASS—Vyacheslav Kebich, chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Byelarus, ended on Tuesday [26 May] his official three-day visit to Kuwait. During his trip, Kebich met the Amir of Kuwait, Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah, the country's prime minister, Shaykh Sa'ad al-Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah and Defence Minister 'Ali Sabah al-Salim al-Sabah.

According to reports received here, the talks centered around the peaceful settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict, the latest developments in the Gulf and in the ex-Soviet republics. Special attention was given to the development of bilateral relations in the military and economic fields, including the encouragement and protection of investments in the economies of the two countries.

The sides expressed mutual interest in the development of ties between Kuwait and Byelarus in diverse spheres on the basis of mutual advantage and non-interference in each other's internal affairs.

Prime Minister Leads Delegation to Israel

OW2505172092 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1616 GMT 25 May 92

[Prepared by Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Vladimir Shishlin; edited by Boris Grishchenko; from "Presidential Bulletin"; transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] A Byelarusian Government delegation led by Prime Minister Vyacheslav Kebich arrived in Israel today. The program of its official visit includes the signing of an agreement on trade and economic cooperation and negotiations on the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries.

Apart from this, Kebich is going to invite the Israelis to take part in the conversion of Byelarusian military enterprises to civilian production, in particular he will propose cooperation in electronics and engineering, and the setting up of joint ventures. He is also hoping to make arrangements for the exchange of technologies for crop raising and the processing, packing, storage, and delivery of agricultural produce, and for personnel training for the Byelarusian banking system. He believes there is a good chance now for setting up a joint bank.

Kebich is also going to discuss possibilities for opening a direct air route between Minsk and Tel Aviv, setting up joint ventures for the manufacture of medicaments and medical equipment, having Byelarusian doctors trained in Israel, and medical assistance to Byelarusians affected by the Chernobyl accident.

As a close associate of Kebich's told our correspondent, the Prime Minister has one special wish—to visit a kibbutz.

Diplomatic Relations Established

LD2705152592 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0909 GMT 27 May 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Aleksandr Zhudro]

[Text] Tel Aviv, May 27 TASS—An agreement to establish diplomatic relations at the ambassadorial level between Byelarus and Israel was signed during Byelarusian Prime Minister Vyacheslav Kebich's official visit to to this country.

On Tuesday [26 May], Kebich met Israeli Premier Yitzhaq Shamir in Jerusalem to discuss ways of developing political and economic relations between the two countries, according to the prime minister's office spokesman. Kebich expressed hope that cooperation between Byelarus and Israel would soon gain momentum, especially in the field of agriculture, medicine and aviation.

Shamir confirmed Israel's readiness to cooperate with Byelarus. He recalled that Byelarus was among the countries which voted for Israel's membership of the United Nations. It was quite natural therefore, Shamir said, that Israel was among the first to recognise independent Byelarus.

IMF Delegation Examines Economic Situation

LD2605030392 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1904 GMT 25 May 92

[By BELTA correspondent Larisa Lazar for TASS]

[Text] Minsk, 25 May—Mikhail Myasnikovich, deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Byelarus, today met with IMF representatives in Minsk. Peter Hall, head of the IMF delegation, stated that the purpose of the visit was to study key issues in the republic's political and economic life which will become the foundation for drawing up specific programs. During the week the IMF experts will meet with specialists and hold the necessary consultations with the goal of curtailing inflation.

The IMF is giving financial assistance directly to states under government programs, Peter Hall stressed. But first the IMF experts must get a more precise idea of the functioning of the economy and progress in developing reforms.

Mikhail Myasnikovich, deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers, stated that cardinal reforms in the economy were necessary for Byelarus to join the system of international financial relations. In order to develop prompt responses to proposals and to work out the sides' positions, a council attached to the government has been set up. It is made up of leading officials from banking and financial services and economic departments.

Moldova

Dubossary Reportedly 'Relatively Calm'

LD2805144792 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1322 GMT 28 May 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vladimir Gondusov]

[Text] Dubossary (Republic of Moldova) May 28 TASS—Last night, as well as several previous ones, was relatively calm in Dubossary. Only two explosions were recorded in the city and a few submachine-gun rounds were fired. But tension persists there: Many people still spend their nights in basements.

In the meantime, the conflicting sides often reach on-the-spot 'ceasefire agreements'. Yesterday, a group of journalists, including some foreign reporters, visited the village of Kochiery, where Moldovan policemen and the National Army are deployed. When they were crossing the frontline, they saw both sides comfortably dining around a common table. The guests were offered wine and peacefully waved on.

Both parties to the armed conflict on the Kochiery bridgehead have recently addressed an appeal to deputies of all ranks, to local leaders and commanders. It mentions such cases of "fraternisation" and urges to resolve the conflict peacefully, to stop the hostilities, and to withdraw military hardware and troops from the confrontation area.

Resolution on Dniester Situation Adopted

LD2705181392 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1741 GMT 27 May 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Fyodor Angeliy]

[Text] Chisinau, May 27 TASS—The Moldovan parliament has adopted a resolution on measures to improve the situation in the break-away Dniester Republic.

The resolution calls for a peaceful solution to the conflict and instructs the government to take measures to protect the rights of the population and bodies of power in the region.

"The involvement of the 14th Russian Army in the armed conflict in the Dniester region is an intervention against Moldova," the resolution said.

The deputies urged the Russian parliament and Government to ensure "an unconditional withdrawal of the occupation army from sovereign Moldova."

The document also urges the Moldovan Foreign Ministry to organise a summit meeting of the Moldovan, Russian, Romanian and Ukrainian presidents with the participation of CSCE experts to discuss peaceful ways to settle the conflict.

Mosanu Offers Resignation; Deputies Refuse

LD2705223292 Moscow Programma Radio Odin Network in Russian 1845 GMT 27 May 92

[Text] Today, when the question of the settlement of the conflict in the Dniester region was debated, Alexsandru Mosanu, the chairman of the Parliament of Moldova, unexpectedly offered his resignation. In this way, he expressed his protest against the ever-more-frequent attacks by a number of deputies. He stressed that these attacks are accounted for by his political views and statements—here he undoubtedly had in mind the statement he made recently to the effect that Moldova's unification with Romania is inevitable.

The majority of the parliamentarians did not permit the issue of the resignation of Alexsandru Mosanu from the post of chairman of the Parliament to be put to the vote.

Armored Vehicles Entering Moldova From Romania

LD2805084692 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0700 GMT 28 May 92

[Text] The IMAPRESS agency has reported that in the past few days railway flatcars carrying armored vehicles have been entering Moldova without hindrance from Romania through the border post at Ungeny. The border is controlled by Moldavian border guards. The green caps of the CIS are also present in Ungeny, but judging by all accounts, the agency notes, they have no real strength.

'Third Force' Breaking Cease-Fire Agreements

LD2805105892 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1020 GMT 28 May 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Valeriy Donetskiy]

[Text] Chisinau, 28 May—One man was killed and three wounded by cross fire in villages north of Bendery, where Moldovan militia positions were fired on by Dniester Region's guards. This was reported today by the press center of the Moldova Interior Ministry. The Dniester press center did not report any fighting or casualties in this region.

It was relatively calm in the Dubossary region, where the sides' field commanders agreed on a cease-fire yesterday.

In conversations with journalists, the field commanders insist that a certain third force—groups of saboteurs who are breaking the cease-fire agreements—are operating in the region of the conflict. This information was contained in reports from both the Moldova Interior Ministry press center and Tiraspol.

Makashov Tipped To Head Dniester Guard

MK2705134192 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 27 May 92 p 3

[NEGA column report: "Moldova"]

[Text] Konstantin Oborok, Moldovan first deputy prime minister, has said that competent organs in Moldova have information that Tiraspol's leaders intend to appoint General Makashov head of the Dniester Guard. Oborok described Makashov as a "destabilizing factor." There are reports from Tiraspol that the general has come to the Dniester Region as a private individual.

Ukraine Asked To Back 14th Army Withdrawal

AU2705175592 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1415 GMT 27 May 92

[Text] Bucharest, ROMPRES 27/5/1992—An open military aggression which is a continuation of the policy promoted by the pro-imperial and neo-Bolshevik forces that hope to revive the Soviet empire, so are the acts committed by the Russian Army in eastern Moldova characterized in an appeal the parliament of the Republic of Moldova addressed to the Supreme Soviet of Ukraine.

The appeal shows that the aggression launched by the Russian military and mercenaries are a danger not only to Moldova but also to other states. Ukraine's parliament is called upon to set forth its stance on the aggression and to back Moldova's legitimate request for an immediate withdrawal of the 14th Army, of the Cossack and Russian mercenaries from its territory, demand Ukraine's Government to control the developments in the eastern districts of Moldova and take the due steps in the international arena for the cessation of the aggression.

Military Official on 14th Army Situation

LD2605214692 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 2007 GMT 26 May 92

[Video report by correspondent S. Fateyev from Odessa]

[Text] A representative of the Russian Armed Forces command has visited units of the 14th Army in order to clarify the situation at first hand. Answering a question about possibilities for withdrawing the Army from the Dniester region, where it has found itself in the center of the conflict, he said:

[Begin recording] [Major General N. Stolyarov, chairman of the committee for work with the personnel of the CIS Unified Armed Forces] The 14th Army is here because of historical circumstances, as the saying goes. I think it is simply impossible to withdraw the Army from here with one stroke. I hope for better times. [end recording]

Major General Stolyarov also chaired a meeting with officers and the army command where he said:

[Begin Stolyarov recording] We are placing our hopes on the UN blue helmets or other peace-making forces. I think this is a role the 14th Army could and should play by taking positions on the front lines and preventing violence from either side. Meanwhile, politicians.... [end recording] [report ends in mid-sentence]

Vice Premier Calls For Sovereignty, Independence

OW2705200492 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1650 GMT 27 May 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Moldovan vice premier, Konstantin Oborok, gauging the leadership's moves for normalisation, spoke of several chances being missed at various stages which "enabled political adventurists to instill in minds the idea of Moldova's early unification with Romania".

In an interview with IF [INTERFAX] news agency Mr Oborok called for Moldovan sovereignty and independence. He believes that a constitutional amendment should be made saying the country's future must be decided bv the people living both on the left and right banks of the Dniester river. Such an act, said the vice premier, could help restore trust to each other and to the Moldovan government.

Mr Oborok is opposed to the use of force in settling the Trans-Dniester conflict preferring a political solution instead.

Social Democrats Approve Referendum Law

LD2805085692 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0659 GMT 28 May 92

[Text] Chisinau, May 28, MOLDOVA-PRES—TASS—"The law 'on a referendum' adopted by the Moldovan Parliament is opening the way for the settlement of many problems," Anatol Tsaran, one of the leaders of the Social Democratic Party of Moldova, told a news conference here today. According to Tsaran, this legislative act cuts the ground from under feet of those who at present in the Dniester region are frightening the population on the left bank with a possible unification of Moldova and Romania. Thus, Tsaran believes the statements by leaders of Tiraspol saying that the unification may be effected by a volitional decision, after adopting the law "on a referendum" are groundless because all serious changes in Moldova's statehood can be carried out only by a national plebiscite.

The Social Democratic Party of Moldova expects that the Moldovan president must immediately fulfil his programme obligation to form a government of civil confidence and national accord, it was stressed at the news conference. According to Social Democrats, the present government is bound to resign, and a coalition government must include ministers from the left bank region of Moldova. In this case the population of the Dniester region will have guarantees that their interests will be protected. Though, at the same time the Social Democrats made an essential stipulation that the present leaders of the Dniester region cannot be members of a coalition government.

Commission Discusses Legal Status of Refugees

AU2705180892 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1738 GMT 27 May 92

[Text] Bucharest, ROMPRES, 27/5/1992—The headquarters of the Republic of Moldova's Government hosted the enlarged meeting of the republican commission for the coordination of the actions to materially assure the refugees, MOLDOVA-PRES agency informs.

In connection with the aggressions of Russia's 14th Army and with the violent firings of the localities on both banks of the Dniester, the participants in the meeting made certain changes as concerns the juridical statute of the persons forced to leave their homes.

Another issue approached at the meeting was the one concerning the expenses made in March-April this year in granting aid and assistance to the refugees.

'Subversive Group' Members Reportedly Captured

LD2405153992 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1230 GMT 24 May 92

[Text] A correspondent from Dniester Radio, calling from Tiraspol, spoke to Gagauz Republic Deputy Chairman (Andrey Buntli), who told him of an attempted terrorist act against the leadership of the Gagauz Republic. Eleven people from a subversive group of the National Security Service of the Republic of Moldova have been detained. Three wounded members of this service managed to get to the town of Kaushany last night, where they died. Three motor vehicles were seized, in which Romanian-produced weapons were found.

Gagauz Protest Security Service Actions

LD2505095392 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0905 GMT 25 May 92

[Report by ITAR-TASS correspondent Nikolay Kiosya]

[Text] Chadyr-Lunga (Republic of Moldova), 25 May—The situation in the south of Moldova, which is densely populated by Gagauz, has become strained. Protest rallies are being held here against the Republic's secret services whose actions yesterday evening led to the death of two people: a local policeman and an operative of the security bodies. There are wounded.

The Moldovan National Security Ministry explains its actions by the fact that its employees "were engaged in intelligence activities on the territory of the town of Chadyr-Lunga aimed at finding bandit groups." Investigations are to reveal the extent to which this is true.

According to preliminary data, the group was mainly comprised of indviduals who were not trained for the battle against banditry. It included three students in their fourth year at the School of History of Chisinau University and two unemployed people.

Among the weapons that the State Security group had were grenade throwers, a large number of grenades, submachine-guns, and other types of weapons. Many members of the group, as one of the 11 seized and held in the Chadyr-Lunga police station stated, are known as decisive supporters of Moldova's immediate annexation to Romania, which the Gagauz and Bulgars are coming out against no less categorically.

Druc Interviewed on Romania's Presidential Race

AU2105082892 Bucharest TINERETUL LIBER in Romanian 14 May 92 pp 1, 3

[First part of interview with Mircea Druc, president of the Christian Democratic Popular Front of Moldova, by Viorel Patrichi—place and date not given: "If the Young People Reject You, It Means You Have No Chance To Do Something for Romania"]

[Excerpts] [Patrichi] Mr. Mircea Druc, for our readers who know less about you, who are you actually?

[Druc] This is a very blunt start... I was born on 6 July 1941 in Pociumbauti Village, Zaicani Commune, Rascani District, Balti County, according to Romania's old territorial organization. I finished middle school in Zabriceni, then graduated from the Foreign Languages School of St. Petersburg, where I studied social science taught in the Spanish language. Then followed economic studies specialized in Third World economics and psychology studies at the Lomonosov University of Moscow. I taught at the Polytechnic Institute of Chisinau, until I was dismissed for political reasons. I also taught management at the Economic Engineering School, after which I attended specialization courses in management at Moscow and Cernauti [Chernovtsy] Universities. After my expulsion from education, I worked for 10 years in production, which was the only possible workplace for a dissident. [passage omitted] In 1989, I returned to Chisinau from Cernauti to do some scientific research. I was asked to participate in the elections, at the request of the Front of Moldova. I became a deputy, then the president of the Foreign Relations commission, and finally prime minister, a position from which I was unconstitutionally dismissed one year later. But that is another story....

[Patrichi] You are a figure very strongly involved in the political life of Chisinau. In you opinion, how can the tensions on the left bank of the Dniester River be resolved?

[Druc] One cannot hope for a speedy solution to that problem. [passage omitted]

[Patrichi] You are familiar with the document drawn up by the Council of Europe, a document with very unfavorable references to Romania, which states, among other things, that the territory on the left side of the Dniester is inhabited by Russians.

[Druc] Statistics refute any such allegation. Russians represent only 25 percent of the population, while the Moldovans are the majority. There are even more Ukrainians than Russians over there, namely 27 percent of the population. Moldovans amount to some 40 percent and even reach 70-80 percent in the villages. [passage omitted]

[Patrichi] The Romanian ecologists announced that they will support your candidacy at the next presidential elections in Romania, something which came as a surprise to many people. Will you run?

[Druc] I said in Romania's parliament last year, and I repeat it now, that I act and think as though Romania were complete. Even through some of Romania's territories are occupied, we are the same country and one should not make a great fuss about the electoral participation of Romanian citizens from all Romanian territories. This is quite simple, and even if it strikes one as strange, it should be accepted as the natural thing to do. [passage omitted] I want to be treated, without discrimination, as a Romanian, from wherever he may be: Arad, Cernauti, Bucharest, or Chisinau. That is what I am asking for. It is not our fault that we have become estranged from the country. This could have also happened to the Romanians of Transylvania or Banat. [passage omitted]

Diaspora Supports Druc's Presidential Candidacy

AU1605141792 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1003 GMT 16 May 92

[Text] Chisinau, ROMPRES 16/5/1992—The Christian-Democratic People's Front of the Republic of Moldova sent MOLDOVA-PRES for release an appeal addressed to the Democratic Convention of Romania by important organizations of the Romanian Diaspora in America.

The appeal, MOLDOVA PRES writes, mentions inter alia that "Mr. Mircea Druc's nomination by the Ecological Movement as presidential candidate of Romania revigorates the Romanian hopes that see in this nomination the revival of the union movement of 1858-1859, when the election of one and the same ruler in both Romanian principalities led to their union, laying foundations to what would later become Greater Romania."

Kazakhstan

Soviet Chairman Addresses Supreme Soviet

LD2705172792 Alma-Ata Kazakh Radio Network in Russian 0100 GMT 27 May 92

[Excerpt] The eighth session of the Supreme Soviet began work yesterday in Alma-Ata. The opening address was delivered by Supreme Soviet Chairman Serikbolsyn Abdildin.

Four months have gone by since the end of the seventh session at which our state independence was proclaimed, he said. During that time, Kazakhstan has been recognized by over 100 states and has become a member of the United Nations and of the IMF. Both the foreign and the internal policy of the republic is aimed at strengthening it. Independent Kazakhstan is pursuing a carefully considered and responsible course based on the aspiration to maintain friendship and cooperation with the countries of the Commonwealth of Independence States and the entire world community. Members of the parliament are making every effort to stabilize and develop this process.

We are acutely aware that at present the problem of the social protection of the population of the republic demands special attention, stressed the speaker. The multi-ethnic people of Kazakhstan must be treated fairly. During a difficult and, at the same time, historic time for them they are showing restraint and supporting the policy pursued by the state of reviving the homeland common to all of us.

Having dwelt on the issues presented at the session, the head of parliament noted that one of the most crucial times in the work of deputies is just ahead. This concerns primarily examination of the draft of the new Constitution of the Republic of Kazakhstan, which must absorb all the best and progressive features of the current law and also of practice around the world.

Abdildin expressed confidence that, relying on popular wisdom and the experience they have accumulated, the deputies will increase their efforts still further to create a basis in law for the Republic of Kazakhstan. [passage omitted]

Nazarbayev Reports on U.S., Russia Trips

LD2705175792 Alma-Ata Kazakh Radio Network in Russian 2300 GMT 26 May 92

[Text] The eighth session of the Supreme Soviet began work in Alma Ata on 6 May [as heard]. The opening address was delivered by Supreme Soviet Chairman Serikbolsyn Abdildin. Next, after the secretariat for the session had been elected, discussion of the agenda began. Over 50 deputies took part in it. After remarks and additions had been taken into consideration the agenda was approved. Deputies also determined the procedure for work at the session.

As proposed by a group of people's deputies, a commission headed by Deputy Chairman of the Supreme Soviet Kayrolla Yerezhepov was formed to examine the demands of workers in public education and health.

Vitaliy Brynkin, chairman of the committee for issues of deputies' powers and ethics, delivered a report on the results of a check on the powers of newly elected people's deputies of the republic during the time since the seventh session of the Supreme Soviet. A decision was adopted on recognizing the powers of the newly-elected people's deputies.

Nursultan Abishevich Nazarbayev addressed the evening session. He informed members of parliament of the results of the official visit by a state delegation from Kazakhstan that he led to the United States and about the signing in Moscow of a Treaty of Friendship, Cooperation, and Mutual Assistance between Kazakhstan and the Russian Federation. He answered numerous questions.

After this, deputies began examining the draft law on the Control Chamber of the Republic of Kazakhstan. As a result of an exchange of opinions it was decided to return to discussion of this draft law later.

Prime Minister Sergey Tereshchenko, members of the Council of Ministers, chairmen of oblast soviets of people's deputies, heads of oblast administrations, and representatives of the mass media are taking part in the work of the session.

Deputies will work in committees on 27th May.

Nazarbayev Tells Journalists of U.S. Trip

PM2705123592 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 26 May 92 Morning Edition p 2

[Report by Vladimir Nadein: "'We Have Something To Say to Kazakhstan People'"]

[Text] "Naturally, Kazakhstan has never had any intention of becoming a nuclear state or of joining the nuclear club," Kazakhstan President Nursultan Nazarbayev said in an interview which he gave to a group of journalists just a few minutes after the president's aircraft had gained altitude on its return journey from New York's Kennedy airport.

Not Ambitions but Security

Not only a few weeks before N. Nazarbayev's visit to Washington but literally the day before the two presidents' meeting in the White House, Kazakhstan's true attitude toward nuclear weapons was still a subject of debate for analysts. "We have not signed the quadripartite document on the creation of the (CIS) unified forces either as a nuclear state or as a nonnuclear state," N. Nazarbayev said.

The president said that his visit to the United States had been under preparation since March last year, when

Kazakhstan was still a republic within the USSR. But the preparation was particularly intensified after the acquisition of independence. Over this time N. Nazarbayev had had three exchanges of letters with G. Bush, had had several telephone conversations with J. Baker, and had acted through the secretary of state's deputies and the recently appointed U.S. ambassador to Alma-Ata.

Working until literally the actual start of the visit, Nazarbayev stressed, he had succeeded in bringing the state of mutual relations with the United States and within the CIS to a state where Kazakhstan felt sure that the country's two main problems—security and prosperity—can be effectively resolved.

Among new phenomena the president highlighted the change in the U.S. stance: "The United States has acknowledged us as a party to the treaty (on strategic arms) both now and in subsequent talks." That is the first point. Second, "together with Russia we signed a treaty on collective security... So that there is an 'umbrella,' including a nuclear umbrella, over Kazakhstan." Third, "I have received a written assurance from (U.S. Secretary of State) Baker that the United States will make every effort to ensure that the international community defends this state (that is, Kazakhstan) in the event of a nuclear attack or threatened attack.

"Within the package of these questions we deemed it necessary to sign the nonproliferation treaty as a nonnuclear state," Nazarbayev said, expressing full satisfaction with the results of the visit as a whole.

Following Familiar Road to White House

Kazakhstan does not yet have its own embassy in the United States. So the American Government residence of Blair House was put at the president's disposal—it is right next to the White House, just off Pennsylvania Avenue.

Although N. Nazarbayev arrived for the main talks in an automobile as part of a long cortege, that probably took far longer than a brief walk would have done. Indeed, Nazarbayev now knows the road to the White House, and not only in the literal sense.

"According to the schedule, 20 to 25 minutes were allocated for a personal talk with the president,," N. Nazarbayev said, answering a question about personal relations with the U.S. Statesmen. "But we talked privately for one hour, 10 minutes, because the talk interested him and, naturally, also interested me."

The president's wife, S. Nazarbayeva, was the personal guest of Barbara Bush and Susan Baker, the wife of the secretary of state. The separate meetings with the U.S. secretaries of defense, commerce, and the treasury and with the chairman of the Federal Reserve System create a position which Nazarbayev regards as a guarantee of "long-term dynamic relations between the two countries."

Successful Business Feeds Us Better Than Humanitarian Aid

N. Nazarbayev was particularly satisfied by the business contacts. The larger part of the five days the president spent in the United States was devoted to them. "You all saw for yourselves," he said, addressing the impressions of the journalists who accompanied the president during his numerous visits to banks and exchanges, companies and business associations.

In addition to specific documents which representatives of the Kazakh Government signed with the Rothschild group, the J.P. Morgan Bank, the Washington branch of a major Austrian bank, and so forth, Nazarbayev says that he values highly the prospect of the talks he had with major firms specializing in the processing of agricultural output, nonferrous metals, and gold mining.

But further movement will require a resolute change to Kazakhstan's legislation to encourage foreign investments. "We must now urgently create an agency for foreign investments in Kazakhstan," he said. "We need one organ which will conduct all talks on the involvement of Western investments in Kazakh business."

"They are angry at the bureaucracy when they reach agreement with one minister but then spend a long time doing the rounds of various ministries," said Nazarbayev, touching on a problem common to all heirs of the CIS [as published]. "Ministers send them from one to the other, each has its own favorite firm. I do not even know what dividends we are trying for, we still have to look into that."

The president said that the resolute review, in the very near future, of legislation to encourage foreign investments, the lowering of taxes, and guarantees of security—it was planned to do all this at the Kazakhstan parliament session before his U.S. visit, it is simply that the U.S. visit has reaffirmed the urgent need for such measures.

Kazakhstan, Nazarbayev said, does not have plans to leave the ruble zone. That was his only reply to the numerous questions from U.S. businessmen who asked whether this fact will not affect the country's independence in making decisions. "But the example involving the Chevron corporation was very convincing. I have always said that the success with Chevron in addition to hard currency will bring us a political result. Other firms have followed Chevron."

The ruble was not the only subject connected with Russia which was discussed during the visit.

Nothing Behind Russia's Back

Nazarbayev believes that it is fundamentally important that during all political and business contacts he invariably confirmed Kazakhstan's loyalty to economic and military cooperation with the former USSR republics and primarily with Russia. He said that he would consider it beneath his dignity to use his visit to the White

House to openly or secretly accuse Russia of anything. "I am sure that in our deeds we can sort things out for ourselves," the Kazakh president said in his interview on board the aircraft.

The signing of the treaty on military cooperation and mutual aid about which Nazarbayev reached agreement in principle with the Russian president before his visit to the United State left its mark on all the Kazakh leader's talks in America. This concerned not only talks in the White House, where the loyal attitude toward Russia was welcomed with obvious understanding, but also all business contacts.

"Kazakhstan is vitally interested in the success of economic transformations in Russia," N. Nazarbayev said, urging the journalists to recall that in all his meetings he repeated again and again the idea of the importance of helping Kazakhstan's northern neighbor in its efforts to organize the economy. "I said that the billions of dollars which the West intends to earmark for Russia to stabilize the ruble fund should go to work as soon as possible."

At the same time the Kazakh leader did not conceal a certain dissatisfaction over the lack of resolve with which many people in the CIS, including Russia, approach the solution of mutual relations with the former republics which are displaying an overt lack of interest in joint measures. "We must help them to end up as rapidly as possible in the situation for which they are striving," the Kazakh president believes. "Let them live absolutely separately and see for themselves how advantageous and convenient it is for their peoples."

Nazarbayev on Treaty With Russia, U.S. Visit

LD2405102492 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0925 GMT 24 May 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Gennadiy Talalayev]

[Text] Moscow, 24 May—A treaty of friendship, cooperation and mutual aid between the Russian Federation and the Republic of Kazakhstan will be signed in the Kremlin on Monday [18 May]. This was stated today by Nursultan Nazarbayev, president of Kazakhstan, at the airport in Moscow after his return from the United States, where he has been on an official visit.

"It will be the first large-scale inter-state treaty," Nursultan Nazarbayev said. "It will be an important milestone in relations between Russia and Kazakhstan, and we attach great importance to it".

Summing up the results of his visit to the United States, the president of Kazakhstan noted that, although the talks had been difficult on certain aspects, "our delegation eventually fully achieved the goals that it had set itself", which is shown by a number of the documents signed in Washington. "During meetings in the United States, continued Nursultan Nazarbayev, I pursued the line that in the course of reform we will coordinate all actions with Russia. Kazakhstan will remain in the ruble zone. In all my speeches and conversations with President Bush, Secretary of State Baker, and representatives of financial and business circles, I said that one must not delay granting Russia the promised aid because the people are waiting for it. How reform progresses in other republics, including Kazakhstan, depends on the victory of reform in Russia." This stance, Nursultan Nazarbayev noted, was interpreted positively.

In reply to a question on Kazakhstan's standpoint regarding the Armenian-Azerbaijani conflict, he came out against intervention by third countries. If a state now acts on the side of Azerbaijan and another on the side of Armenia, Nursultan Nazarbayev said, then a "Lebanonization" of the conflict will occur. This must not be permitted. We all must work to stop the escalation of the conflict and influence both sides so that the negotiations process proceeds.

Paper Views Nazarbayev's Washington Talks

PM2505144592 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 21 May 92 Morning Edition p 5

[Vladimir Nadein report: "United States Has Secured Renunciation of Nuclear Missiles by Kazakhstan, But Has Taken No Commitments Upon Itself"]

[Text] Washington—Nursultan Nazarbayev did not betray by a single facial muscle how difficult he found his very first talks in the White House. Outwardly Nazarbayev was impassive and calm.

G. Bush, on the other hand, radiated cheerful smiles. He read his speech from a previously prepared piece of paper and did not deviate from it for a moment. There was evidently no need for last-minute corrections to his homework. Bush knew he would be able to convince his guest, and low and behold, he achieved what he wanted.

Nazarbayev, on the other hand, departed from the approved text repeatedly in order to invite Bush and his wife to Kazakhstan, and in order to say to the White House incumbent: "We are grateful to you for such a high degree of trust, and Kazakhstan will do all it can to justify this trust." It seemed to me that at this point Bush, who is not used to the vocabulary of the 23d CPSU Congress, started, as if to say: "That's too much, dear comrade. I ascribe everything you say to the Republican Party which nurtured me."

But that only lasted a short moment. Then the American continued to pay curious attention to the praise of the guest from afar, whose country sits on the globe in almost exactly the same way as the United States, only upside down—that is, exactly on the other side of the planet.

Clearly this is not the end of the contrasts. Kazakhstan is potentially rich, but aside from the potential it is painfully poor. Even in years of recession America has no equals in economic might. When Bush was already a trained diplomat and coauthor of new relations with the PRC, Nursultan Nazarbayev had just become party organizer at a coal mine.

Casting all illusions aside, all this knowingly excluded the fundamental elements of equality.

By the time both presidents went out into the Rose Garden to sign three documents normalizing economic relations between the two countries, Nazarbayev—from the heights of his artificial though logically consistent model of a state which became nuclear "by the will of a malevolent fate"—had finally come down to earth on the flawed reality of the Treaty on the Nonproliferation of Nuclear Weapons.

Of course, the Kazakh president has realized that he will still have to give up nuclear weapons. But like his Ukrainian colleague Leonid Kravchuk, Nazarbayev would like to obtain something in exchange for the voluntary dismantling of a threat of planetary significance.

It is now clear that neither Ukraine nor Kazakhstan will receive anything in exchange for the elimination of their missiles. Nor will they receive anything for adhering to the nonproliferation treaty—even as a nuclear-free state. Bush himself is hard pushed for carrots, as is evident from his election campaign. Therefore he could not use both the carrot and the stick during the talks on Kazakh nuclear weapons.

Instead he used two sticks, although they were of different sizes. The stick to punish nuclear disobedience is heavier—a trade embargo, and interaction with partners to blockade Kazakhstan, which would of course eliminate Alma-Ata's economic ambitions.

The stick for voluntary departure from the nuclear scene is lighter and there is even a small carrot—most-favored-nation status in trade and guarantees for private investments.

But just when does Kazakhstan intend to break into an American market which is seriously overflowing with every conceivable and inconceivable thing. Not for nothing does THE NEW YORK TIMES stress that "in the next five years most of the petroleum from the Tengiz oil field will be sold within the former Soviet Union."

So that is that as far as petroleum is concerned. But will the splendid Kazakh television sets find their way to America in the near future?

As has become known from a reliable source, on the eve of his White House meeting the president of Kazakhstan sat up late into the night seeking a solution to the nuclear problem that would enable him, if only for the sake of appearances, to avoid giving the impression of unconditional capitulation.

He did not find one. Nazarbayev's hope that, once he handed over his nuclear umbrella to Russia, he would straightaway hide in the shade of the American umbrella also came to nothing.

The United States stated that it would fulfill the conditions of the 1968 treaty—but no more than that. That is, America will definitely not hasten to cobble together some kind of anti-Husayn-style coalition in the event of a nuclear threat to Kazakhstan. America will of course appeal to the UN Security Council, but that is all.

The Americans energetically persuaded Nazarbayev that his country's transition to nuclear-free status, like the observance of the treaty on the reduction of strategic weapons signed by Gorbachev, will prove to be a blessing for Kazakhstan again and again.

Clearly, Nazarbayev did not object. It is simply that it was difficult for him, just as it was for Leonid Kravchuk who was here two weeks ago, to reconcile himself with the thought that all the 1,400 strategic nuclear warheads, which cost such a lot of money, will bring his country no more than the inevitable expenditure on dismantling them.

Although Nazarbayev will not take any new credits or old ambitions out of Washington, nevertheless the nickname "weakling," popular among Washington wits, will not stick to him any longer. Newspapers and speakers at official dinners do not tire of being enraptured by Nazarbayev's resoluteness and tact, which enabled Kazakhstan to sharply increase its share of the revenue from the Chevron deal and not alienate a prospective partner by making tough demands.

It is possible that President Bush was not moved by Nazarbayev's statement that Kazakhstan wants to become a loyal pupil of the United States. There are plenty of countries in the world which long for American standards. But Nazarbayev has proved that he knows how to learn. It is possible that during his next visit he will not be required to make statements about being able to justify trust.

Kyrgyzstan

President Akayev Begins Visit to Beijing

PM2005134192 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian
16 May 92 Morning Edition p 5

[Report by Yuriy Savenkov: "Bishkek-Beijing: Ties Going Back 2,000 Years"]

[Text] Beijing—"Although this is the first state visit at summit level since Kyrgyzstan acquired sovereignty, it is the second such visit in the 2,000 year old (!) history of our relations with China"—that was the intriguing detail with which President A. Akayev opened the press conference in the Center of People's Assemblies.

It turns out that back in the first century BC, a princess of the Chinese court was given in marriage to a Kyrgyz khan. Their children studied in China and served as the trail blazers on the great silk route.

During the present visit a communique was signed which formulated the fundamental principles of mutual relations in the economic, political, and humanitarian fields between the two countries and a series of documents was adopted on the mutual protection of investments and cooperation in education, health, and tourism. There was agreement in principle on the opening of air routes between Bishkek and Wulumuchi and Bishkek and Beijing. It was decided to exchange radio and television programs (there are 140,000 Kyrgyz living in China and now they will be able to see the programs).

China granted preferential commodity credit to the sum of 30 million yuan: light industry articles, rice, tea, and sugar. It was decided to defer a capital agreement on the new level of economic relations until the visit to Kyrgyzstan by Li Peng, the head of the Chinese Government.

Two free economic zones (one in Naryn Oblast, the other in Osh Oblast) have been created in Kyrgyzstan's economically underdeveloped regions bordering on the PRC. Enterprise will be developed there in conjunction with Chinese firms. Their technology will be used, primarily in the construction of enterprises for processing agricultural output.

Were defense problems discussed in Beijing? Akayev was asked by journalists. The president reminded them that Kyrgyzstan is the only state in the CIS to have decided not to create an army, but to acquire permanent neutrality status. Bishkek has reasoned as follows: We have two great neighbors. In the North there is Russia, with whom we have traditional friendship and cooperation. Good-neighborliness is also being actively established with China. Why does Kyrgyzstan need to maintain an army? If the unforeseen happens, will its great neighbors not protect it?

Comments on Visit

PM2005102092 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian
19 May 92 p 3

[Boris Barakhta report: "First Time in 1,500 Years. China-Kyrgyzstan: Results of Talks in Beijing"]

[Text] Beijing—Was it the spring rains which fell for several days in a row in Beijing which gave Chinese-Kyrgyz relations the life-giving elixir? Maybe. In any case, bilateral cooperation is developing apace. It is literally shooting up like young bamboo shoots at this time of year.

Fruitful negotiations at the highest level have already taken place. President A.A. Akayev met with Yang Shangkun, chairman of the PRC; Jiang Zemin, general secretary of the CPC Central Committee; and Li Peng, premier of the State Council. A firm basis was laid for mutually beneficial cooperation on a basis of equal rights.

We should ask ourselves the question: Could things be any different in the current situation? President Akayev, alluding to history and parables in the oriental manner, substantiated in a convincing way, one of the main reasons for the speedy rapprochement between the two states. We are the only one of the USSR's former republics, he said, which has decided not to create our own army and to observe neutrality.

Indeed, military questions were really not discussed in the course of the dialogue between the two sides. However, observers noted that the agreements signed in Beijing on modernizing the network of China-Kyrgyzstan roads make the strategic Karakoram highway part of a transport network linking Central Asia with China and Pakistan.

President Akayev also talked about the revival of the Great Silk Road. Two of its basic arteries, whose reconstruction has already begun, passed through Kyrgyzstan. Today it is a question of a qualitatively new stage: The republic is setting itself the task of once more becoming a bridge, a connecting link between East and West. A solid material and economic basis is backing this plan.

"Respected Mr. President," PRAVDA's correspondent asked A. Akayev, "in the course of your visit the Chinese press has written a lot about the attention you paid to the experience of the Chinese reforms. In what sphere of PRC life do you find the policy of openness carried out here particularly attractive?"

"Reforms in agriculture in China have been proceeding successfully for some years now, and open zones are being set up," Askar Akayev said. "Now we too have founded two free economic zones with the help of Chinese specialists and entrepreneurs. The main orientation of their activities is in agriculture and in processing raw materials. The zones are located in underdeveloped regions of Kyrgyzstan on the borders with the PRC."

In the course of the Beijing negotiations, a weighty package of bilateral documents was signed. The People's Republic of China has granted Kyrgyzstan preferential credit of 30 million yuans. Consumer goods and food products will come from the PRC. Young men and women from Kyrgyzstan will receive education in Chinese higher educational establishments; special attention will be paid here to studying the practice of the Chinese reforms.

It is not possible to talk in detail about all the documents signed, covering health care, television, radio, and direct air links. This was, after all, as President Akayev said, only the first official visit in 1,500 years by a Kyrgyz delegation to China.

Western correspondents in Beijing paid particular attention to Akayev's warm, friendly conversation with Jiang Zemin, general secretary of the CPC Central Committee. After all, it is not every leader of a former Soviet republic that the Chinese communist leader has received—and quite a few of them have already visited the PRC. During the face to face meeting, judging by the press reports, the discussion covered many questions, and on most of them a complete identity of views was achieved. Jiang Zemin emphasized that China will continue under Communist Party leadership to travel the road of building socialism with a Chinese character. He accepted an invitation to visit Kyrgyzstan.

Beijing's rapid rapprochement with its Central Asian neighbors—in particular with Bishkek—is a natural phenomenon. Being a great socialist power, China, in accordance with its own national interests, is striving to strengthen the republic's western borders on the basis of the principles of peaceful coexistence. There is a natural process in train to fill the vacuum after the Soviet Union's disintegration.

Akayev Calls For 'Consolidation of CIS'

LD2405202792 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1817 GMT 24 May 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Ruben Shirinyan]

[Text] Moscow May 24 TASS—Kyrgyzstan's President Askar Akayev called for the consolidation of the CIS in every way. He appeared on Sunday afternoon [24 May] in "Live Dialogue" programme broadcast by the first channel of Ostankino Television Company.

Akayev said Kyrgyzstan is open to all countries and regions wishing to maintain friendly relations with it.

Asked if the Kyrgyz leadership has new priorities in the foreign policy activity, the president said that it is yet early to talk of this. "Time will show with whom we can develop equal and mutually advantageous relations, and with whom we shall have just good relations. I wish to emphasise that establishing new ties we still attach priority importance to our ties with the CIS countries, above all with Russia," he said.

Regarding the political situation in the republic, Akayev said that there is quite a strong opposition in Kyrgyzstan. On the whole, he assessed the situation as "normal," as, he said, "truth emerged in disputes." The president said that the democratic course in Kyrgyzstan has every chance of success.

Asked about the reasons for the influx of the Russian-speaking population from Kyrgyzstan, Akayev admitted that he personally is much concerned over this. "I find it difficult to imagine the Kyrgyz economy, science, culture, life in general, without Slavs. We are doing everything to allay the anxiety of ethnic minorities. There is no Rusophobia in Kyrgyzstan, there has never been and will never be," Akayev said.

Tajikistan

Nabiyev Addresses Nation, Urges National Accord

LD2505133592 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1317 GMT 25 May 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Galina Gridneva]

[Text] Dushanbe May 25 TASS—President Rakhman Nabiyev of Tajikistan called for consolidation and national accord in an address to the nation and all political parties and movements televised on Sunday [24 May].

"The fate of the republic is being decided these days," the president said. "We must do everything in our power to preserve its unity and territorial integrity," he urged.

Emotions should not be permitted to triumph over reason. All parties and movements regardless of their racial and ethnic affiliation must display a lofty sense of responsibility for Tajikistan's future, its economic revival and international prestige, the president said.

He reiterated commitment to human rights and democratic transformations in the republic. Nabiyev said he envisioned Tajikistan as a law-governed, secular state.

U.S. Government Aid Announced

LD2605144292 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1301 GMT 26 May 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Galina Gridneva]

[Text] Dushanbe May 26 TASS—U.S. Charge d'Affairs in Tajikistan Mr. Stanley T. Escudero sent a letter to President of the Republic Rakhmon Nabiyev in which he expressed sincere commiseration in connection with tragic consequences of natural disaster in Tajikistan, and announced the initial steps of the U.S. Government to render aid to Tajikistan. The message says, specifically, that a cheque for 1.8 million roubles will soon be sent to the Tajik Red Cross and Red Crescent Society. The funds are meant for the restoration of Kodak village in the foothills of the Pamirs that was hit by the elements the most. The funds will be spent to purchase clothing, medicines, building materials, food.

The U.S. Government also sent to Tajikistan medical equipment and vaccines worth 120 million roubles in the framework of the U.S. aid programme to protect Tajik children against disease.

Iranian Envoy Meets Senior Officials

LD2305215692 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0945 GMT 23 May 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Galina Gridneva]

[Text] Dushanbe, 23 May— Over the last few days, local observers have noted a sharp increase in the activities of the Iranian Embassy in the Republic of Tajikistan. During the last two days, Iranian ambassador Ashraf Mojtahed-Shabestari has met a number of senior officials, including Education Minister Zakir Vazirov; Foreign Minister Khudoyberdy Khaliknazarov, an opposition figure who recently joined the government of national reconciliation; and also Dushanbe Mayor Mirzotimur Mirzoyev.

At all these meetings, the representative of the Iranian Foreign Ministry raised the question of more effective cooperation between the two states in various spheres of the economy, politics, and culture. In talks with the minister of education he confirmed Iran's readiness to accept a large group of young Tajiks for courses at Tehran University. According to the Iranian ambassador, Tehran has also agreed to instruct Tajik specialists in banking, marketing, and other disciplines. Exchanges [words indistinct] and construction and assembly of a large printing-house at Iranian expense were discussed. The Iranian diplomat also showed great interest in the expansion of political ties between the two countries which, in his view, are brought together by the centuries-old culture, traditions, and language that they share.

Supreme Council Approves Assembly Composition

OW2705214392 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1850 GMT 27 May 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] On Tuesday [27 May] in Dushanbe the Presidium of the Tajik Supreme Council adopted a resolution on the People's Majlis (Assembly) and approved its composition. Representatives of the opposition parties were present at Tuesday's [27 May] meeting of the Presidium. The People's Majlis will consist of 80 people: 50%—former deputies of parliament and 50%—representatives of the opposition.

Aircraft Arrive From Moscow With Cash

OW1905193092 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1633 GMT 19 May 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Two military aircraft belonging to the Central Asian Border District arrived in Tajikistan from Moscow yesterday with a load of cash, something the republic has for a long time been desperately short of. The National Bank refuses to name the sum but claims it will be sufficient to pay all the arrears, including those in wages, pensions and student grants. The money is expected to last until July.

Turkmenistan

Niyazov Discusses Mutual Defence Treaty

OW2705190592 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1749 GMT 27 May 92

[Prepared by Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Vladimir Shishlin; edited by Boris Grishchenko; from "Presidential Bulletin"; transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] President Niyazov told scientists on Tuesday [26 May] that on June 2 or 3 Turkmenistan hopes to sign a treaty with Russia on mutual defence and on the status of military formations in Turkmenistan. Three days earlier [23 May] he said during his meeting with the commanders of the military formations located in his republic, that in Tashkent on May 15 he offered Boris Yeltsin to sign a bilateral military treaty not later than June 10.

Niyazov said that the two republics have come to terms on the main provisions of the treaty and that its final version will be close to the Turkmen variant.

IF [INTERFAX] note: The Turkmen variant includes the following provisions: Russia and Turkmenistan shall consider attack on either side as aggression against both countries, and make coordinated efforts to rebuff it. The parties shall confirm the Russian Federation's and Turkmenistan's succession in relation to the former Union's armed formations located in the Russian Federation and Turkmenistan by the day of signing the treaty. The parties give their agreement to permanent or temporary placement and functioning of armed formations in the places of dislocation by the date of the conclusion of the treaty; the parties shall grant all the military formations located in Turkmenistan the status of joint troops of the Russian Federation and Turkmenistan hereinafter referred to as JTT (Joint Troops in Turkmenistan). The JTT shall ensure the parties' mutual security and be under joint jurisdiction. The parties will share the financing and maintenance of the JTT. The share of Turkmenistan shall include the provision, for free, of places of dislocation for the military formations, the extension of communal services, including electricity, water and gas supplies, to them, the placing of the air and sea space at their disposal, as well as social guarantees. The JTT formations shall not interfere in Turkmenistan's internal affairs. The personnel shall observe the laws and constitution of Turkmenistan. The JTT's formations shall change places of permanent dislocation only by the parties' mutual agreement. The JTT shall be staffed by personnel from among citizens of both states on the basis of coordinated decisions taken annually by the two governments. The parties declare their intention to cut down the military formations according to a time-table agreed upon and within the limits guaranteeing military security. The JTT's personnel, as well as the members of the families shall retain citizenship of their countries and enjoy the rights on a par with the citizens of Turkmenistan. The JTT formations shall be under the command of the Russian and Turkmen presidents. The movable property obtained on the money of the Russian Federation shall remain the Russian federation's property following the end of its utilization.

Niyazov stated that his government was ready to sign similar agreements with other CIS states so not to infringe on the interests of servicemen who come from other CIS states.

Turkmenistan put a special accent on concluding such direct bilateral agreements. This explains why Turkmenistan refused to sign the collective security agreement in Turkmenistan which, to quote Niyazov, was vague and declarative, like all other previous documents. Niyazov admitted, at the same time, that during the Bishkek meeting he announced that he would sign the collective security agreement only after his republic and Russia reach a bilateral agreement on the future of the troops located in Turkmenistan.

Some of the officers serving in Turkmenistan describe the agreement discussed with the Russian government as the best army-related agreement to date. At the same time they doubt the efficiency of this agreement in the part dealing with joint jurisdiction and the JTT's subordination to the two countries' defence ministries, as well as with interaction between the troops' command and the Turkmen authorities.

Niyazov said that the command of the Turkmenistan military district and servicemen in some of the garrisons appealed to the Russian government for placing the troops located in Turkmenistan under Russia's jurisdiction. However, some would like these troops to be placed under the jurisdiction of Turkmenistan.

"We reject both of these variants as unacceptable," said Niyazov on May 23. If we accept either of them, the interests of servicemen or of Turkmenistan will be damaged, he added.

To solve communication problems and to establish contacts between the command of the troops in Turkmenistan and the republic's defence ministry, and also between officers and enlisted men replenished from among Turkmen conscripts, the government of Turkmenistan may choose to appoint Turkmens to the posts of deputy-commanders of large military formations. The appointment of former chairman of the Committee for National Security Allashukur Ovedzhev to the post of commander of the central Asian frontier district provides evidence of this fact.

Uzbekistan

Karimov on 'Relinquishing Shackles of Ideology'

OW2005113892 Moscow INTERFAX in English 0746 GMT 20 May 92

[From the 19 May "Presidential Bulletin" "prepared by Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Vladimir Shishlin" and "edited by Boris Grishchenko"; transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] President Islam Karimov and Prime Minister Abdulkhashim Mutalov visited the Samsung exhibition which opened in Tashkent this Tuesday [19 May]. The Samsung exposition features computers, video and audio equipment, facsimile machines, typewriters with electronic memory, refrigerators, washing machines, clothes and footwear.

During his visit, President Islam Karimov emphasized that the economy of sovereign Uzbekistan is completely relinquishing the shackles of ideology. In his words, the Republic's industrialists and entrepreneurs are looking forward to developing mutually advantageous relations with various countries. The President had to express concern that the Samsung was lagging behind other major Western companies which intend to closely cooperate with Uzbekistan. Nonetheless, the Republic reveals interest in establishing the relations of business partnership with the corporation, particularly, in setting up a network of joint ventures specializing in production of finished goods. In the opinion of the President, "the road from the exhibition to joint ventures ought to be as short as possible".

Islam Karimiv noted that Uzbekistan was primarily interested in acquiring South Korean progressive resource saving technologies. He also indicated that the Samsung Corporation can obtain the status of the most favored company in the Republic.

The Corporation officials assured Islam Karimov that during his forthcoming visit to South Korea the President will be offered "a package of proposals for the countries' mutually beneficial cooperation".

Foreign Ministry Denies Afghan Border Closing

OW2405141892 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1309 GMT 24 May 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The foreign ministry of Uzbekistan issued a statement describing as untrue, media reports about the closure of borders between Uzbekistan and Afghanistan.

The statement says that there is no impediment for the movement of individuals or cargoes across the border. All issues linked with Commonwealth or foreign travellers, it runs, are subject to the agreements signed by CIS heads of state and government.

The statement also says that the Uzbek Goverment considers those false reports as an attempt to drive in a wedge between Uzbekistan and Afghanistan which enjoy long-running bonds of friendship. More importantly, runs the foreign ministry's statement, Uzbekistn is a sovereign state and as such, has the right to regulate border controls proceeding from its own interest.

Party of Social Progress Established

LD1905223492 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1600 GMT 19 May 92

[Text] The Party of Social Progress [Partiya Sotsialnogo Progressa—PSP] is getting ready to enter the political arena in Uzbekistan. As a correspondent from Rosinformagentstvo was told by the organizing committee, this will be a party of the reformist, parliamentary type. Its aim is the building of a democratic state which guarantees the rights of all citizens, nationalities, ethnic groups, and religious minorities. Any citizen who has reached the age of 18 can become a PSP member, irrespective of his social status, nationality, or creed.

The PSP will try to achieve representation in the bodies of legislative, executive, and judicial power by democratic methods.

Birlik Movement's Fifth Congress Concludes

OW2405174892 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1712 GMT 24 May 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Uzbek officials have denied yesterday's IF [INTERFAX] report to the effect that the authorities gave the Birlik Popular Movement a permission to hold a Congress because its activists had been picketing the mayor's office and threatening to go on a hunger strike. The IF report was based on information provided by one of the Birlik leaders, Abdurakhim Pulatov. The officials claim that the permission was delayed for purely technical reasons.

Meanwhile Birlik's fifth congress has come to a close in Tashkent today.

The congress criticized the Treaty on Collective Security of the CIS Countries signed by CIS heads of state at their May 15 meeting. Birlik takes the view that the treaty automatically puts Uzbekistan on the side of Armenia, which the congress condemned in a special statement for its aggression against Azerbaijan.

The congress re-elected Abdurakhim Pulatov and Shukhrat Ismatulayev as Birlik co-chairmen.

State Bank Chairman Discusses Currency

OW1905182092 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1431 GMT 19 May 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Chairman of the State Bank of Uzbekistan Mr Mullozhanov maintains that the Republic's "decision to introduce its national monetary units will mostly depend on the nature of the relations taking shape in the CIS". In all probability this problem requires a thorough preparation. Talking to INTERFAX correspondent, Mr Mullozhanov said that the problem of national currency is not likely to arise in Uzbekistan until 1993. Should the Republic adopt its national currency, all the deposits in the Republic's savings banks will be subject to recomputation, head of Uzbekistan's State Bank assured.

Armenia

Foreign Ministry Issues Statement on Conflict

NC2705170992 Yerevan Armenia's Radio First Program Network in Armenian 1400 GMT 27 May 92

[Statement issued by the Armenian Foreign Ministry in Yerevan; date not given—read by announcer]

[Text] The situation has again aggravated in Armenian regions bordering Nakhichevan. Yeraskhavan, Armash, Sevakavan and other border settlements in Armenia's Araratskiy Rayon were fiercely shelled from Sadarak Rayon center in Nakhichevan Autonomous Republic. Twelve peaceful residents have been killed and more than 30 injured in the past few days as a result of the barbaric Azerbaijani shelling.

The Azerbaijani side has practically transformed Sadarak Rayon center into a forward military base to shell the neighboring republic's territory. It is significant that, as the Azerbaijani side has reported, all the peaceful residents have been evacuated from Sadarak. One gathers that with Baku's consent the Nakhichevan authorities are determined to continue artillery attacks on the settlements in Armenia's Araratskiy Rayon.

As such, the veracity of the numerous statements by Geydar Aliyev, chairman of Nakhichevan Autonomous Republic Supreme Majlis, about Armenia's [words indistinct] aggressive intentions towards Nakhichevan have to be doubted. He is (?trying) to place the entire blame for the situation at Nakhichevan's border on the Armenian side. In actual fact, however, the picture is totally different. The Azerbaijani side is provoking military skirmishes on the border to justify the intervention of a third country in the increasingly alarming regional developments.

The real (?objective) behind the actions of the leadership of Nakhichevan and Baku is not a secret. Instead of heeding the voice of reason, helping resolve the frightening military conflict, and taking genuine steps to normalize the situation, they are actually fanning the flames of military clashes.

The international community is concerned at the escalation of the military operations in Transcaucasia. For that very reason, it [word indistinct] endorsed Armenian President Levon Ter- Petrosyan's statement which expressed readiness for the immediate signing of a comprehensive cooperation pact with Nakhichevan Republic in order to transform the common border into a zone of security. The ball now is in Nakhichevan's court.

The Armenian Foreign Ministry appeals to the international community to influence the developments in our explosive region so that a dangerous turn of the events towards even more intense armed conflicts can be averted.

CIS Weapons Reportedly 'Handed' to Azeris

LD2805133792 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1305 GMT 28 May 92

[By ARMENPRES correspondent Boris Kyufaryan for TASS]

[Text] Yerevan, 28 May—Over the past few days, Azerbaijan has unilaterally been handed the weapons of three regiments and district depots of the CIS troops in Lenkoranskiy Rayon. This information reached the ARMENPRES agency today from the headquarters of the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic defense forces.

In the view of a headquarters spokesman, this could lead to an even sharper escalation of the military conflict between Azerbaijan and the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic.

Aid to Nagorno-Karabakh Continues To Arrive

LD2205145192 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1354 GMT 22 May 92

[Text] Moscow May 22 ITAR-TASS—Humanitarian aid continues to flow into Nagorno-Karabakh along a special "humanitarian corridor", the Karabakh News Agency reports from Stepanakert (Khankendi). More than 300 tonnes of flour, 120 tonnes of cement and more than 100 tonnes of fuel, as well as foodstuffs, medicines and baby food have arrived over the past three days.

Houses and schools are being restored as the lull lasts. Drinking water is now supplied to all houses from the repaired water-wells outside the city. But electricity and natural gas have yet to come.

The Karabakh News Agency denied rumours that the humanitarian corridor is being used to smuggle military equipment into Nagorno- Karabakh. Stepanakert holds that the republic has enough military equipment seized from Azerbaijan Army units to defend itself against aggression.

The anti-aircraft gun emplacements are being bolstered to rebuff attacks by Azeri air forces.

Hovannisian Warns Turkey About 'Intervention'

TA2305202592 Ankara Turkıye Radyoları Network in Turkish 2000 GMT 23 May 92

[Text] Armenian Foreign Minister Raffi Hovannisian has said that Turkey's intervention in the conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan would lead to World War III. He was speaking to reporters in Lisbon, where he went to attend the conference on economic aid to the former Soviet republics. He alleged that Turkey is trying to escalate the clashes in Nakhichevan, and that it is making provocations to create an opportunity to intervene.

Russian Officer Released by Azeri Militants

LD2805103992 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1023 GMT 28 May 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Andrey Naryshkin]

[Text] Moscow May 28 TASS—Azerbaijan's defence minister issued an order on Wednesday [27 May] to dissolve and disarm all militarised units which did not become part of the national army and law enforcement bodies, ITAR-TASS has learned from trust-worthy sources.

A spokesman in the Russian Defence Ministry told ITAR-TASS that Lieutenant-Colonel Aleksandr Gorskiy, who was taken hostage by Azeri militants on May 26, was freed on Wednesday evening. His release became possible due to the firm stance taken by the military command at talks with the militants.

Kurdish Intellectuals Appeal for Autonomy

NC2505164592 Yerevan ARMENPRES International Service in Armenian 1215 GMT 25 May 92

[Statement by Armenia's Kurdish Intellectuals Council]

[Text] Yerevan, 25 May (ARMENPRES)—Since the 1950's, Kurdish intelligentsia in the former Soviet Union have drawn attention to incredible violations of the national rights of Kurds in Azerbaijan. These include abolishing the autonomous Kurdish province which existed between 1923-1930, forcibly uprooting and assimilating the Kurdish population, distorting the census and the number of Kurds, and rejecting that Kurds constitute a national ethnic unit. This is only part of the picture of the consistently pursued anti-Kurdish policy. Over the past four years the Kurdish public has often demanded restoring the Kurdish autonomous province, with Lachin as its capital.

With the possibility of so doing, efforts are being made to erase the Kurdish population's just demand. The Azerbaijani Army and chauvinists are firing on our brothers' peaceful settlements and are trying to blockade the only route to vital assistance from Armenia.

We favor a just and civilized resolution of the Nagorno-Karabakh problem and the unimpeded protection of the lifeline passing through Lachin, aided and controlled by our compatriots and the UN peacekeeping forces.

With hope and conviction, we call on our national organizations, the Kurdish diaspora, and Kurdistan's national democratic organizations to support restoring the Kurdish autonomy in Lachin and surrounding regions—to end the historical injustice and nightmarish times of the trampling of the Kurds' national rights and dignity.

We call on the Kurds to remain neutral and express our view that the region's problems should be solved in a just and humane manner, based on respecting the right of national self-determination.

Ter-Petrosyan Departs for Visit to Egypt

LD2605130592 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1105 GMT 26 May 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Tigran Loloyan]

[Text] Yerevan, 26 May—Armenian President Levon Ter-Petrosyan left today on a three-day official visit to the Arab Republic of Egypt. He will hold talks with the leadership of Egypt on the development of political, economic, and cultural cooperation between the two countries.

Recognition of Independent Karabakh Urged

LD2705183692 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1758 GMT 27 May 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Tigran Liloyan]

[Text] Yerevan May 27 TASS—Four opposition political parties of Armenia demanded on Wednesday [27 May] that the republic recognises independent Nagorno-Karabakh.

The National-Democratic Union (NDU), the "National Self- Determination" unity, the Armenian Revolutionary Dashnaktsutyun Party and the "Ramkavar-Azatakan" Liberal Democratic Party, all represented in the republican parliament, issued a draft resolution which they intend to offer to parliamentary consideration.

"The historic military victories of Nagorno-Karabakh should be immediately strengthened by corresponding political moves", the National Democratic Union believes. Armenia should voice its position towards the status of Karabakh more precisely, it added.

Non-recognition of the enclave means that Armenia agrees that Karabakh stays within Azerbaijan and deprives the population of the region of the right for self-determination", according to the statement.

Armenia occupies a "passive" position in the Karabakh issue and its proposals to deploy international peacekeeping forces in the enclave cannot be implemented, David Vartanyan, chairman of the parliamentary Foreign Relations Commission and an NDU leader, told reporters on Wednesday. "There is no better guarantee of security of the Karabakh Armenians than the Armenian Army of the region", said Vartanyan, who is also member of the parliamentary presidium.

Decree Details State Property Responsibility

OW2705184892 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1747 GMT 27 May 92

[Prepared by Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Vladimir Shishlin; edited by Boris Grishchenko; from "Presidential Bulletin"; transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] A presidential decree has now been made public on delineating the areas of responsibility for the use of state property between republican and administrative-territorial structures. The Armenian government is instructed to issue regulations on the registration of the property and property rights.

Decision making on the future of state property lies with ministries, departments, and the state tax inspectorate and down to district and city councils on an administrative-territorial level.

Official Reports Republic's Average Wage

LD2805104192 Moscow POSTFACTUM in English 0943 GMT 28 May 92

[Text] Yerevan—According to Grant Bagratyan, vice-premier of Armenian Government, at present the average wages in the republic are R [ruble] 600, whereas the subsistence minimum is R2,230.

On May 27, Grant Bagratyan, first vice-premier of Armenian Government, said at a meeting with journalists that now 55 per cent of population have got down to the miserable living level. According to the vice-premier, this is accounted for by the blockade, and the lack of power, electricity, water and light.

Iran Agrees To Build Natural Gas Pipeline

OW2405161992 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1446 GMT 24 May 92

[From the "Interfax Business Report"; transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Iran and Armenia have concluded an agreement to build a 150 km natural gas pipeline joining the two countries. Construction of the pipeline is tentatively scheduled to be completed by the summer of 1994.

The pipeline's initial capacity of 1 bn cu m [billion cubic meters] of gas a year should be doubled by 1995. The pipeline will connect the Iranian towns of Ashtara and Tavriz with the Armenian regional center of Megri which is located in the south of the republic near the border with Iran. Iran's Ministry of Fuel will undertake construction of the pipeline, while other facilities, including 3 compressor stations, will be carried out by Armgazprom, and Aremenian association.

The agreement also stipulates that, beginning in 1996, Iran is to sell Armenia approximately 7 bn cu m of natural gas a year; an amount which is to increase to 13 bn cu m by the year 2000. This gas is to be delivered through the Iran-Europe pipeline which is scheduled to be completed by that time. Experts of the Armenian Ministry of Fuel and Energy believe that Iranian natural gas will end Armenia's dependence on deliveries of gas from the Commonwealth of Independent States which is piped through Azerbaijan on its way to Armenia. Azerbaijan has repeatedly blockaded the flow of gas recently due to tense relations between the two countries.

Azerbaijan

Kamberov Interviewed on Government's Formation

TA2605194992 Ankara TRT Television Network in Turkish 1700 GMT 26 May 92

[Interview with Chairman of Azerbaijani Supreme Soviet Isa Kamberov in Azerbaijani by Turkish Radio and Television correspondent Erturk Yondem; place and date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Yondem] What kind of a constitution does the government to be established have in mind? What kind of a system is considered?

[Kamberov] Naturally, Azerbaijan should be a democratic and civilized country. We want to establish a unitarian and secular state, a state based on a market economy.

[Yondem] You are in favor of a market economy.

[Kamberov] As for the political field, we are in favor of good-neighborly and normal relations with neighboring countries and all other countries. We want to develop political and economic relations.

[Yondem] Currently you are faced with various problems. With the exception of the war, your biggest problem now is economic. What kind of measures are being taken on the issue?

[Kamberov] Azerbaijan has many problems. Since we are in power now, though temporarily, we have tried to take various measures to solve these problems.

APF Supreme Assembly Issues Resolution

NC2805114092 Baku Radio Baku Network in Azeri 1700 GMT 26 May 92

["Text" of resolution adopted by the Azerbaijan Popular Front Supreme Assembly; date not given—read by announcer]

[Text] The Azerbaijan Popular Front [APF] Supreme Assembly, after examining developments in the republic during the past few days, noted the following:

The APF leaders made the correct decision about the situation created by the coup on 14 May, canceled the results of the coup by [words indistinct], and restored the constitutional institutions. Although politics in the republic are being seriously controlled, the social, political, and economic situation remains tense, caused by Armenia's relentless aggression and by losing part of our land because of certain official circles' betrayal, [words indistinct], and economic confusion. Removing all this requires the people to work hard.

Foreign policy has made several gains in the short time the democratic forces' representatives have been in office and world opinion on the Armenia-Azerbaijan dispute has changed significantly in favor of our republic.

The APF believes that removing the serious crisis in the republic, strengthening Azerbaijan's international prestige, maintaining political stability, and strengthening the democratic process can only be achieved through democratic presidential elections.

The APF Supreme Assembly, reiterating the need to strengthen our defense, to safeguard Azerbaijan's borders, and to establish security for our people, decided that:

1. The work carried out by the APF leaders to restore constitutional order in the republic after the coup on 14 May be approved.

2. The following be regarded as the APF's main tasks:

Defending the republic's borders; establishing security for the people; maintaining peace in all the republic's cities and rayons; and holding democratic presidential elections on 7 June 1992.

3. The adoption of urgent measures to establish a supreme military council affiliated with the president and for strengthening the Defense Ministry be deemed appropriate.

4. The republic's procuracy be asked to initiate an inquiry to expose those responsible for abandoning Shusha and Lachin so treacherously.

5. The adoption of urgent measures to mobilize [word indistinct] forces to prevent the pillage of our resources, the fall in production, and [words indistinct] be approved.

6. The removal of officials who are reluctant to work in the rayons and who [words indistinct].

7. The APF Supreme Assembly presidium be asked to draw up proposals to be submitted to the republic's leaders to help them improve the republic's cadre potential, reorganize the personnel policy, select and appoint new cadres, and ask the high-ranking officials affiliated with the APF to consider these proposals.

8. The APF leader be asked to resolve the question of reorganizing the APF executive until the Supreme Assembly's next session.

[Signed] Gadzhiyev, APF Supreme Assembly chairman

Acting President Dismisses, Appoints Officials

Defense Forces Commander Dismissed

OW2705184092 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1746 GMT 27 May 92

[Prepared by Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Vladimir Shishlin; edited by Boris Grishchenko; from "Presidential Bulletin"; transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Acting President Isa Kamberov signed a decree to appoint Niyazi Ibrahimov as chief of the President's press service. N. Ibrahimov was Deputy Chairman of Azerbaijan's Popular Front and head of the Front's information department. Since the Front's rules do not allow people to hold posts in government structures and in elective bodies of the Front at the same time, N. Ibrahimov had to give up his previous job.

In another decree G. Kamberov dismissed Dadash Rzayev, commander of national self-defence forces and first deputy defence minister, "for shortcomings in his work". The job remains vacant so far.

Besides, I. Kamberov ordered to establish Azerbaijan's police academy on the basis of the special police school in Baku.

1st Deputy Defense Minister Appointed

NC2605201092 Baku Radio Baku Network in Azeri 1700 GMT 25 May 92

[Text] Isa Kamberov, acting president and Azerbaijan Supreme Soviet chairman, issued a decree, dated 5 May 1992, Baku city, appointing Lieutenant General Vali Ayyub ogly Bekhzadly as first deputy minister of defense and head of the general headquarters of the Azerbaijan Armed Forces.

Kamberov's decree removed Major General Shahin Kheyrettin ogly Musayev from the position for shortcomings.

Further on Appointments

OW2605213892 Moscow INTERFAX in English 2059 GMT 26 May 92

[Prepared by Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Vladimir Shishlin; edited by Boris Grishchenko; from "Presidential Bulletin"; transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] A number of additional rearrangements of the ruling staff were undertaken by the acting president Isa Kamberov before the elections due to be held June 7.

52-year old Vafa Gulizade was appointed a State Adviser on Foreign Affairs. He graduated from the Azeri State University and is a linguist-orientalist by profession. He occupied senior posts in the Central Committee of the Azeri Communist Party in the seventies and eighties, and worked in the diplomatic sphere. He was appointed a State Adviser on foreign policy in 1990. Married, and has two children.

58-year old Ali Jakhangirov [name as received], who was in charge for agriculture even under the ex-President Mutalibov, was appointed a State Adviser on agrarian policy. Jakhangirov is an economist and graduated from an agricultural institute. Married, and has three children.

The former Defense Minister Lieutenant-General Vali Bekhzadly was "rehabilitated" (he fulfilled these duties beginning September 1991 till January 1992). In accordance with Kambarov's Decree he will occupy the first Deputy Defense Minister of the republic and the Chief of the Azeri armed forces' General staff.

IF [INTERFAX] note: In September last year Bekhzadly was appointed the Defense Minister on Mutalibov's proposal but then early this year he was dismissed from this post due to the failure of the hostilities in the Karabakh conflict zone.

Major-General Shahin Musayev was released from the post of the first Deputy Defense Minister and Chief of the General staff due to several errors by the same decree.

Supervisors in Baku qualify the last changes in the ruling structures as the PFS's [expansion unknown] wish to soften the impression of the "staff revolution" and to prevent the aggravating of the relations with the former regime supporters who still are holding the key positions in several regions of the republic.

State Advisers Appointed

NC2805093692 Baku Radio Baku Network in Azeri 1700 GMT 21 May 92

[Text] In accordance with the decrees issued by Isa Kamberov, acting president and chairman of the Azerbaijan Supreme Soviet, Arif Mustafa ogly Gadzhiyev has been appointed as state adviser on field administrative organs and Lutfiyar Alibaly ogly Shirinov has been appointed as state adviser on legal affairs.

In accordance with other decrees issued by Kamberov, Sabir Kemal ogly Gadzhiyev has been relieved of his responsibilities as state adviser on legal affairs because he has been appointed to another post. Adil Gadzhiyev has been relieved of his responsibilities as state adviser on field administrative organs because he has also been appointed to another post.

Replacements Viewed

OW2205190892 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1659 GMT 22 May 92

[From the "Presidential Bulletin"; transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Notwithstanding the outcome of June 7 elections of a new President, representatives of the Popular Front of Azerbaijan (PFA), who hold key positions in the transitional administration, are busily replacing Mutalibov's command with PFA's supporters. Political observers note that the majority of high ranking apparatchiks-henchmen of the twice ousted ex-President managed to retain their posts during the short rule of the former Speaker of the Parliament Yakub Mamedov.

Acting President and the head of the supreme legislative body Isa Kambarov acts more resolutely in implementing staff changes. According to his decree the chairman of the PFA's majlis Arif Gadzhiyev was appointed State Adviser on the work with the administrative-territorial bodies. (This post envisages development of recommendations on cooperation with the Nakhichevan Autonomous Republic headed by Geydar Aliyev.)

IF [INTERFAX] note: Arif Gadzhiyev is 30 years old, he graduated from the journalist department of the Baku state university, and is a journalist by profession. He worked as an editor of a local radio station in the Zakatalski region of Azerbaijan. He is a member of the republican milli-majlis (the former Supreme Soviet transferred its powers to this body before the June 7 presidential elections) February this year he became the head of the PFA's majlis. Married, and has two children.

A member of the milli-majlis, deputy of the republican parliament Ikhtiyar Shirinov is appointed a state adviser on the legislative policy. Until now he worked in the Baku's and Azeri regions' public prosecutor's offices. (Married, and has three children - "IF").

Simultaneously by the other decrees Sabir Gadzhiyev and Adil Gadzhiyev were dismissed correspondingly from the post of the state adviser on legislative policy and from the post of the state adviser on the work with the administrative-territorial bodies. Both of them are Mutalibov's canvassers.

Thursday [21 May] at the session of the milli-majlis the Azeri General Prosecutor Murad Mamedov reported that due to the resolution of the board of republican public prosecutor's office Baku's Prosecutor Mamed Kuliyev was dismissed from the occupied post because of drawbacks in his work. A PFA's supporter Chingiz Kuliyev, who headed the Azeri board of lawyers until now, was appointed instead of him. The General Prosecutor received the consent of the milli-majlis members to draw to legal account the Deputy of the republican former Supreme Soviet Abdul Abdulov known under the name Gadzhi Abdul. As Kuliyev, so Gadzhi Abdul were among the most active initiators of Mutalibov's returning to power.

IF [INTERFAX] note: Nevertheless a number of persons, who were appointed when Mutalibov was at power, still retain their posts. In particular, an influencing state adviser on the problems of national relations Rasim Musabekov can be mentioned among them.

The supervisors in Baku believe that the staff rearrangements in the supreme structures of the republican authorities are occurring with the knowledge and approval of the PFA's leader and of the most probable winner in the fight for the presidential post Ebulfez Elchibey. Thursday evening his appeal to the activists and supporters of the PFA fighting at the Armanian-Azeri front was announced over the republican television.

The appeal states that the motherland and the people are in a great danger. The earth is occupied by enemies. "Not a single step back!" Elchibey exclaims, calling for fight "in the name of freedom and independence of the motherland". "The deserters and traitors" will be severely punished "as by the Popular Front, so by the state structures", he underlines.

Minister Declares Armed Formations Illegal

LD2705221692 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 2000 GMT 27 May 92

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] By decree of the Azerbaijan defense minister, all armed formations on Azerbaijan territory, which are not part of the republic's Defense Ministry structure, have been declared illegal. They should be disbanded and weapons confiscated. This was reported by RIA.

Defense Council Orders Joint Security Patrols

LD2805132892 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1100 GMT 28 May 92

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] The Azerbaijan State Council for Defense has issued an order introducing joint patrols by the Interior Ministry and the Army. Events involving large crowds have been banned. Foreigners will now require visas to enter the republic. Censorship of information concerning the country's defense is being introduced.

Lezgin Leaders Oppose Compulsory Draft

MK2805093892 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 28 May 92 p 3

[NEGA report: "Caucasus"]

[Text] Lezgin national movement leaders have demanded an end to the compulsory drafting of members of national minorities into the Azerbaijani Armed Forces.

N. Ramazanov, chairman of the Lezgin National Council, and the chairman of "Sadval," the Lezgin People's Movement, have sent a message to the Russian and Azerbaijani parliaments. The message says that Azerbaijan's official authorities intend involving all the peoples of the republic, the Lezgins among them, in the war with Armenia.

The Lezgin national movement leaders believe that legislative acts adopted in Azerbaijan on the compulsory drafting of citizens into the republic's armed forces and measures to implement them (the institution of military field courts and tribunals and the right of commanders of the national army and self-defense forces to execute people on the spot for insubordination) cannot be applied to the Lezgin people.

UN Mission Arrives, Meets With Leaders

LD2605103292 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 0800 GMT 26 May 92

[Video report by correspondent Khatayevich; from the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] A UN mission has arrived in Azerbaijan to render assistance in resolving the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict.

[Khatayevich] A UN mission has been received in Azerbaijan by acting President Isa Kamberov, who is also chairman of the republican Supreme Soviet. He noted that Azerbaijan has frequently stated its readiness to settle the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict by political means. Members of the mission had a series of meetings in the capital of the republic. We have received a sufficient amount of information, said UN mission head Francesk Vendrell. We will try to unite the efforts of all international organizations in the search for a peaceful solution. We are planning to visit the conflict zones of Nagorno-Karabakh and Nakhichevan.

Further on Meetings

PM2705133592 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 26 May 92 Morning Edition pp 1-2

[Report by Yuriy Ivanov-Smolenskiy and Vasif Samedov: "UN Observers Have Arrived in Azerbaijan"]

[Text] Baku—The war does not have days off—last Saturday and Sunday, 23 and 24 May, more people were dying in the Azerbaijan border villages. As a result of the shooting two self-defense fighters were killed in Nakhichevan, we were told at the Azerbaijani Internal Affairs Ministry.

On Sunday the villages of Zangelanskiy, Tauzskiy, Fizulinskiy, and Khanlarskiy rayons bordering on Armenia were fired on. With the support of armored personnel carriers Armenian formations seized the village of Gyulabrit, Lachinskiy Rayon, where two local inhabitants died. During the shooting at the weekend 10 people were wounded.

In all, we were told by Ragim Guseynov, the republic's minister of health, the number of those wounded in combat operations and during the shooting now in civilian and military hospitals has reached 766. Of these 160 are fighters in the Azerbaijani national army, the others are civilians. The minister also showed us the conclusion of the republic's antigas laboratory from which it emerges that during the shelling of Agdamskiy and Sadarakskiy rayons some shells were filled with mustard gas, phosgene, and diphosgene. In the past few days representatives of the International Red Cross and humanitarian aid from France have arrived in Baku.

The Azerbaijan leadership is making ever new steps to settle the conflict with the aid of the world community. On Sunday five UN observers arrived in Baku as part of a special mission. They met with Isa Gambarov, chairman of the Supreme Soviet, who is fulfilling the president's functions. We were told by Guseynagi Sadykhov, Azerbaijani foreign minister, that the republic's position, which has been presented to observers, is as follows. To start talks it is essential to return to the territorial status quo: The Armenian side must renounce in principle its territorial claims and then through talks Azerbaijan is prepared for any status for Nagorno-Karabakh but as long as it mirrors the status of similar Azerbaijani minority formations on Armenian territory.

On Monday, 25 May, UN observers are meeting with the republic's prime minister, the ministers of health and agriculture, representatives of public organizations, in particular the People's Front, and also with refugees from Nagorno-Karabakh, Shusha, and Lachin.

Ends Nagorno-Karabakh Visit

LD2705150592 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1343 GMT 27 May 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vadim Byrkin]

[Text] Moscow May 27 TASS—The U.N. mission headed by Francesc Vendrell ended its visit to Stepanakert, capital of Nagorno-Karabakh, late on Tuesday [26 May] after an hour of talks with leaders of the disputed enclave.

The mission returned to the Agdam District.

Arrives in Nakhichevan

LD2705182992 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1747 GMT 27 May 92

[Report by unidentified AZERINFORM-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Nakhichevan, 27 May—A special UN mission led by Francesc Vendrell, the head of the Office for Special Political Affairs of the UN Secretariat, has arrived in Nakhichevan to study the situation in the region and gather information about the conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan. The UN representatives had a meeting with Geydar Aliyev, chairman of the Nakhichevan Supreme Majlis.

Army Commander on Russian Troop Withdrawal

LD2605162792 Moscow POSTFACTUM in English 1359 GMT 26 May 92

[From the "Military News" section]

[Text] Baku—Russian soldiers are leaving Azerbaijan and no one of them will fight with either side, said commander of the 4th Army.

Major-General Nikolay Popov, commander of the 4th Army, commenting an agreement reached between Azerbaijan and Russia at May 15-16 Tashkent Summit of the CIS member-states, envisaging for the terms of withdrawal and commitments of the sides concerning troop withdrawal, told PF [POSTFACTUM]: Following President Boris Yeltsin's decree on spreading of Russia's jurisdiction to the troops dislocated in Azerbaijan, attitude toward us have considerably improved.

The Tashkent meeting, at which Russian Defense Minister General of the Army Pavel Grachev approved the schedule of withdrawal and transfer of remaining property and material of the 4th Army to Azerbaijanian side, put everything in its proper place. Bilateral agreements determined our status, i.e. of the troops temporarily stationed in the republican territory. The process of troop privatization started unilaterally was suspended. Over 50 outposts of the 4th Army that previously separated the conflicting sides, were removed. Thereby the troops were completely withdrawn from participation in the inter-ethnic conflict, involvement into which over 2,000 people I still consider as unlawful. [sentence as received]

Today, Nikolay Popov said, I am ever more concerned not by relations with Azerbaijanian side, but by desertion from the Army under jurisdiction of republics of disintegrated union, servicemen destinies leaving for the new place of service, as well as weakening of units and their incomplete personnel composition. But the main thing is that during the period of ambiguity of our status we managed to protect people albeit sustaining certain losses in materiel.

When asked by PF correspondent whether commander of the 4th Army considers that there were no more problems in relations with Azerbaijanian side, Nikolay Popov said: Forceful attempts to seize weaponry and equipment from our servicemen that happened after signing of the agreement were made not on the legal basis, in the opinion of Azerbaijanian side, but by odd armed formations that are not subordinated to official troops. But there are some problems with transfer of remaining materiel to the Defense Ministry. For example, five persons arrived to receive a tank regiment, possessing over 100 units of armored vehicles. We won't be able to keep to the schedule under such rates. Other problems are quite soluble, but it should not be delayed.

Nikolay Popov also reported that there are instances that some units prefer to hand over equipment and arms to all those who so wish. I instituted approximately 100 criminal proceedings concerning the facts of army property sales. At the same time, the military prosecutor's office has already been transferred to Azerbaijan Defense Ministry and, naturally, they do not deal with our presentations. In the final analysis, equipment and weaponry sold by our servicemen appear in Azerbaijan Army. Therefore now that we are handing over the property we include into the papers those arms which Azerbaijan Army has already obtained, commander of the 4th Army stated. Answering the question whether Azerbaijan side had expressed its desire to see among its combat ranks subdivisions of the 4th Army, Nikolay Popov said: We never spoke about this. But we do not object to pass over to Azerbaijan Army of the officers who wish to stay here. There are few of them, about 7 percent, but still there are. The majority of them lost connection with the Russian Army, and I excluded them from the lists of the unit. That is why when we are asked for a piece of advice we don't refuse. But there can be no armed intervention of the 4th Army into the conflict. Quite another thing is that representatives of many republics of the former union fight within the composition of Azerbaijan troops on a contractual basis, but this is their own business. The same is true of volunteers fighting on the Armenian side. I think that we will never get an order from the Russian Defense Ministry to engage in combat operations and neither of Russian soldiers will fight with either side, said commander of the 4th Army.

Commenting on the very same situation on May 24, Azerbaijan Defense Minister Rakhim Gaziyev told PF: Armenia got ready for combat operations in Nagorno Karabakh thoroughly. Machinery left over since withdrawing of the 366th motor-rifle regiment from Karabakh is operating on Armenian side. This force was opposed by our volunteers armed only with rifles, the fact which our latest defeats may be attributed to. Therefore we are interested in weaponry and materiel of the 4th Army. We also need military experts whom the republic is drastically short of.... Earlier people who were subjected to shooting from the Armenian side jumped at any opportunity in order to get arms including seizing them from the CIS United Armed Forces' servicemen. Presently, it's out of the question. Our relations with the 4th Army are quite normal.

Schedules for the transfer of remaining property and materiel to us have been endorsed, terms of units withdrawal have been coordinated. Those servicemen who may wish to stay to continue their service within Azerbaijan Army may conclude contracts, no one will make them take an oath of allegiance for the second time. Upon completion of their term of service they will have guaranteed pensions, an opportunity to get housing in any region if they wish to go there. The rest may quietly leave for the new place of service following the transfer of materiel to us. Moreover, the republic makes a commitment to transfer money to the indicated addresses to compensate for the housing that is being left here, in order to help solve housing problems of departing servicemen.

Answering the PF question as to the Azerbaijan Defense Ministry authorities' intentions to attract Russian servicemen to combat operations on their side, Rakhim Gaziyev said: For over 70 years we lived in a united Soviet Union, we have maintained friendly relations with Russia for over 200 years and we are not going to destroy these ties. However this does not mean that we will draw someone by force to defend our ancestors' land. We are speaking only about transfer of arms and equipment to us, which, as I have already mentioned, have already been agreed upon, about exchange of experience and qualified military specialists, as well as about training of our military personnel at Russia's military higher institutions in the future.

Report on Military Supply to Troops Denied

OW2705005792 Moscow INTERFAX in English 2142 GMT 26 May 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The deputy commander of the Transcaucasian Military District, Sufiyan Beppayev, described as untrue the information, received by IF [INTERFAX] from unofficial sources, to the effect that yesterday the Azeri armed forces had received from a motorized infantry regiment of the former Soviet Army stationed in the town of Astara some 100 tanks, several dozen pieces of artillery, including 12 Grad missile launchers, plus another few Grad launchers and 100 armored vehicles today.

Beppayev said negotiations were under way on the transfer of part of military materiel to Azerbaijan. He stressed that exactly the same amount of materiel would be given to Armenia too.

Hijacked Su-25 Credited With Combat Sorties

PM2605132592 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 21 May 92 p 1

[Captain Second Rank O. Odnokolenko report: "The Same 'Rook'... The Su-25 Hijacked from a Military Airfield Is Carrying Out Strikes on Nagorno-Karabakh and the Border Regions of Armenia"]

[Text] As already reported in the mass media, on 8 April an aircraft, commonly known as the "rook," was hijacked from Sitalchay airfield, where a Russian Air Force ground-attack air regiment is stationed. After a flight lasting several minutes, the plane landed at an airfield under the control of Azerbaijani armed formations. Senior Lieutenant V. Kurbanov, the Azerbaijani pilot, and two other servicemen were the actual perpetrators of the act.

According to information obtained at the Transcaucasus Military District headquarters, the civilian airfield of Yevlakh is the base for the as-yet sole combat plane belonging to the Azerbaijan Air Force, which is in the process of being set up; the Su-25 has already carried out several combat sorties from there against Stepanakert (Khankendi) and Armenian rayons bordering Azerbaijan. It was presumably this same ground-attack plane which fired a missile at a military helicopter belonging to the Russian troops in the Transcaucasus piloted by Major Aleksandr Gorchagov a few days ago, at a point six km north of Akstafa. As the crew commander reported, the helicopter was flying far above the cloud base, and he therefore has no doubt that only an airborne enemy could have attacked him. Moreover, a shot-up civilian aircraft which was ferrying wounded from Stepanakert is also accounted for by the ground-attack aircraft.

It is clear now that the statement made by the CIS Air Force Main Staff shortly after the Su-25 was hijacked that all measures had been taken to prevent the aircraft taking part in combat operations in Karabakh does not, to put it mildly, correspond to reality. The present assertions by specialists from the Transcaucasus Military District Headquarters that the professional qualities of pilot Kurbanov are not high and that he fires at random are scarcely going to reassure anyone. At any rate, according to certain information, the district command has been forced to keep on standby fighter aircraft charged with the special mission of immediately scrambling on command and shooting the Su-25 down.

Incidentally, it cannot be ruled out that other aircraft belonging to Azerbaijan will soon take to the skies above Nagorno-Karabakh. KRASNAYA ZVEZDA has learned that pods for firing S-5 missiles at ground targets are being fitted to L-29 trainer aircraft at the settlement of Sangachaly, where the Azerbaijan Defense Ministry air training center (formerly the airfield of the 97th Air Defense Division) is located. According to other information, cadet pilots of Azerbaijani nationality from the Armavir Higher Military Aviation School, discharged on health grounds, are arriving in Sangachaly.

Russian Officer Released by 'Militants'

LD2805103992 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English
1023 GMT 28 May 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Andrey Naryshkin]

[Text] Moscow May 28 TASS—Azerbaijan's defence minister issued an order on Wednesday [27 May] to dissolve and disarm all militarised units which did not become part of the national army and law enforcement bodies, ITAR-TASS has learned from trust-worthy sources.

A spokesman in the Russian Defence Ministry told ITAR-TASS that Lieutenant-Colonel Aleksandr Gorskiy, who was taken hostage by Azeri militants on May 26, was freed on Wednesday evening. His release became possible due to the firm stance taken by the military command at talks with the militants.

Elchibey Comments on Turkish-Russian Talks

TA2705183092 Ankara TRT Television Network
in Turkish 1700 GMT 27 May 92

[Interview with Azerbaijan Popular Front leader Ebulfez Elchibey by Turkish Radio and Television correspondent Erturk Yondem in Baku on 27 May 92—recorded, in Azeri]

[Text] [Yondem] What are your expectations over the talks held between Turkish Prime Minister Suleyman Demirel and Russian President Boris Yeltsin?

[Elchibey] Undoubtedly, these talks were held in a very warm atmosphere. What Yeltsin has said is that the Soviet Federation is not only a neighboring country with bilateral and trade relations but also a friendly country.

[Yondem] Do you believe that the Armenians will give up the territories they have occupied?

[Elchibey] The party in power and the opposition parties in Turkey are trying hard to achieve this end. They have exerted efforts in order to inform the world public on the issue. NATO and CSCE countries have declared that Armenia has committed an aggression, that unilateral aggressions cannot be accepted, and that occupied lands cannot be appropriated. The European and U.S. support to this view will influence the Soviet Federation and Armenia's occupation decision. This is an important development and a strong political support for Azerbaijan.

KGB 'Pressure' on Turkish Journalists Reported

NC2305095392 Istanbul MILLIYET in Turkish
8 May 92 p 7

[Text] Two KGB officers arrived in MILLIYET's Baku office and tried to detain correspondent Rehber Besiroglu on grounds that his reports supported the Azerbaijan Popular Front. A group of Turkish journalists in Baku to cover the opening of the Second Turkish Exhibition witnessed the incident. Pointing to a MILLIYET issue they carried, the officers asked Besiroglu to accompany them to police headquarters, saying: "Your are opposed to the Azerbaijani administration and you behave like an informer."

The Turkish journalists confronted the KGB agents, who were forced to leave the office but warned that they would return. Journalists in Baku have disclosed that the pro-Moscow bureaucrats and the police in particular have moved to strengthen their pressure in parallel with the developing relations between Turkey and Azerbaijan.

U.S. Spokesperson's Karabakh Remarks Reported

PM2205114692 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 22 May 92 Morning Edition p 5

[Aleksandr Shalnev report: "Washington Will Not Support Interference in Karabakh"]

[Text] The United States does not support any interference by "any outside force" in the conflict in Nagorno-Karabakh.

This was stated Wednesday, 20 May, by State Department spokesperson Margaret Tutwiler. She was answering questions on the position that Turkey could take on that conflict and on the warnings just received by Ankara from Moscow, and specifically from Marshal Shaposhnikov.

But before warning against interference from outside, Tutwiler pointed out that, first, the United States "has maintained close contact with Turkey" on the question of Nagorno-Karabakh, and, second, that Turkey is "playing a constructive role," trying to put an end to violence and achieve a peaceful solution to the conflict.

Furthermore, the State Department spokesperson appealed to Armenia and Azerbaijan to put an end to the violence and seek peace.

This is the second appeal in the last two days which the United States has officially addressed to the sides in the conflict. The previous day, Tuesday, a statement was issued in Tutwiler's name expressing serious concern that the escalation of hostilities in Nagorno-Karabakh and Nakhichevan "to a dangerous scale, will increase instability in the region." The statement also stressed that the U.S. Government "will recognize no unilateral changes in the status of Nagorno-Karabakh, Nakhichevan, or any other territory, any changes achieved by military operations or violence."

The only way to settle the conflict, the State Department declared, is through talks.

The key phrase, in my opinion, in the State Department statement was this: "...The quality and nature of relations between the U.S. Government and both Armenia and Azerbaijan will depend on those countries' commitment to the principles of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe, a commitment demonstrated in practice."

I asked the high-ranking State Department staffer on Wednesday whether resistance to "outside interference" is among those actions that could be taken by the United Nations. I learned from the reply that, first, the State Department warning was addressed first and foremost to Turkey and does not apply to the United Nations, but, second, that Washington does not yet have a clear position on whether UN peacekeeping forces should be sent to the region.

Egypt To Act as Mediator in Nagorno-Karabakh

LD2705180892 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1748 GMT 27 May 92

[By ITAR-TASS]

[Text] Cairo May 27 TASS—Egypt will act as a mediator in the settlement of the Armenian-Azeri conflict, Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa said on Wednesday [27 May] during his meeting with ITAR-TASS Director General Vitaliy Ignatenko and editor-in-chief of the Moscow-based "NEW TIMES" magazine Aleksandr Pumpyanskiy.

The Egyptian foreign minister emphasised that Russia, being a co-chairman of peace talks on the Middle East settlement, plays a key role in the establishment of a just and lasting peace in the region.

Nakhichevan Assembly Chairman Views Situation

NC2705135492 Istanbul CUMHURIYET in Turkish 6 May 92 pp 1, 17

["Exclusive" telephone interview with Geydar Aliyev, chairman of the Nakhichevan Supreme Assembly, by CUMHURIYET correspondent Ergun Balci on 4 May]

[Text] [Balci] Are the Armenians continuing their attacks?

[Aliyev] Yes, they are. The Nakhichevan Autonomous Republic [NAR] is under fire from the Armenians. I called Prime Minister Suleyman Demirel today to explain the situation. Turkey is one of the parties to the agreements establishing the NAR, and I asked Demirel to take action to end this problem.

[Balci] What kind of action did you propose? Did you ask for a military or diplomatic action?

[Aliyev] That is for Demirel to decide.

[Balci] Ankara has taken military measures on its side of the Hasret Bridge between the two countries. Has the Hasret Bridge been attacked?

[Aliyev] The clashes are 4 or 5 km away from the bridge. The Armenians are shelling the area.

[Balci] Has there been serious damage in Sadarak?

[Aliyev] Yes, many buildings have been destroyed, including the municipal building. The town is being evacuated.

[Balci] Turkey has launched initiatives with the United States to halt the attacks. It has called on President Bush and Secretary of State James Baker to take action. Can you please comment?

[Aliyev] Turkey did the right thing. The Armenian attacks must be halted.

[Balci] You reportedly conferred with President Ter-Petrosyan by telephone two days ago.

[Aliyev] Yes, I spoke with him. He told me that the attacks will be halted. He failed to fulfill his promise; the attacks are continuing.

Fighting, Chemical Injuries Reported

NC2405191692 Baku Radio Baku Network in Azeri 1700 GMT 24 May 92

[Text] The Azerbaijan Ministry of Defense press center disclosed the following information on 24 May:

Nakhichevan Autonomous Republic: Units of the Armenian Armed Forces attacked (Filiz) in Ordubad at 1700 on 23 May. The attack was unexpected. Consequently, 12 of the fighters in a guard post near the town were surrounded. The determination of our fighters was not broken by the tense situation. Although they temporarily lost contact with their headquarters, they fought bravely with the enemy. Regardless of the fact that the Armenian troops [words indistinct], the fighters were able to break their siege, forcing the enemy to retreat. One of our fighters, Sadykhov Gafil Orudzh ogly, died heroically during the clashes.

The field defense units of the Azerbaijan Armed Forces are continuing their effort to retake the [word indistinct], which has been temporarily occupied by the enemy. Azad Isa-zade, deputy director of the Ministry of Defense press center, was able to call the Nakhichevan Popular Front today. The information he received is as follows:

Intermittent clashes occurred in Sadarak last night. Armenian Army units fired intermittently on Sadarak, which is close to [placename indistinct] and Kyrmyzylar heights. Two of our troops were wounded in the 23 May clashes. Two of our fighters were careless enough to touch a chemical shell that was fired on the town by the Armenians today. Both of them had to be hospitalized. They have been affected by chemical substances. Meanwhile, the Armenian brigands tried to steal 1,000 sheep in [placename indistinct]. The thieves wounded the shepherd. Fighters of the local defense battalion arrived on the scene and forced the enemy to retreat.

Initial reports say that 118 enemy troops were wounded and 24 others were killed in the clashes that took place before 20 May. Our units lost 16 fighters in the clashes that began in Sadarak on 18 May and are still going on. Armenian armed units and armored vehicles have been observed assembling on the far side of [placename indistinct] height in Shakhbuzskiy Rayon.

Sadarak was contacted at 1540 once again today. The situation is rather tense in the town. Clashes are taking place around Karakum and Kyrmyzylar. The enemy has been systematically firing on the towns with artillery guns, [word indistinct], and other firearms. Several of our fighters have been wounded. It has been ascertained once again that Russians are also taking part in the clashes in Sadarak.

The fighters of the local defense forces have disclosed that they fought with Russians face to face on many occasions. They said that they even knew the names of many of the Russians. The field defense units of the Azerbaijan Armed Forces are waging a determined struggle to ward off the enemy attacks.

Kubatlinskiy Rayon: A relative calm prevails on the rayon's border with Armenia, but the armed units of the enemy army are moving in various directions in Armenia.

Zangelanskiy Rayon: Seidlyar has been fired on from Armenia's Kapanskiy Rayon. The Armenian Army has reinforced its units along the border of the rayon. The local defense forces have prepared themselves to ward off the enemy attacks.

Ten artillery shells fell on Fizuli today. The city and other towns in the rayon were systematically fired on from Gadrutskiy and Khodzhavendskiy Rayons with artillery guns, machine guns, and automatic firearms. The field defense units of the Azerbaijan Armed Forces are warding off the enemy attacks.

Agdamskiy Rayon: Enemy armored vehicles and armed units have been observed assembling in the direction of Askeran, but a relative calm prevails in the rayon.

Kazakhskiy Rayon: Bala Dzhafarli was shelled from Armenia's Idzhevanskiy Rayon with artillery guns at 1515 today. Two shells fell on the town. No one was killed. Armenian armed units and tracked vehicles have been observed assembling along the rayon's border.

The situation has been peaceful in Tauzskiy, Kedabekskiy, Terterskiy, Gorenboyskiy, and Dzhebrailskiy Rayons.

Situation Report Issued

NC2705183792 Baku Radio Baku Network in Azeri 1700 GMT 27 May 92

[Text] The Azerbaijani Defense Ministry Press Center disclosed the following information on 27 May:

Nakhichevan Autonomous Republic: One of the shells the Armenians fired on Topaz in Ordubadskiy Rayon fell on Iranian territory today. One of our troops was wounded in the [place name indistinct] in Babeskiy Rayon on 26 May. Dzhagazur in Sadarak Rayon and Yukhary [name indistinct] and Khavysh in Sharur Rayon were hit with intermittent automatic-weapon and machine-guns fire. The situation around Sharur has been relatively calm. Armenian reinforcements and armored vehicles continue to assemble close to the Badabad farmlands in the Shakhbuz region. Although shots have been heard in Sadarak, the situation in the city is relatively calm.

A cease-fire was implemented to retrieve the bodies of the fallen in the battlefronts at 1000 today.

Kubatlinskiy and Lachinskiy Rayons: Didimli and Birebir in Lachinskiy Rayon were hit with artillery and Grad rocket fire from Khndzoresk and [name indistinct] in Armenia's Gorisskiy Rayon from 1600 to 1700 today. There were no casualties. The situation in Kubatlinskiy Rayon has been relatively calm. Residents of Kubatlinskiy Rayon are now occupied with agricultural work in the fields. Their sense of loyalty to the homeland does not allow them to remain inactive. Life is continuing as usual in Kubatlinskiy Rayon.

Zangelanskiy Rayon: Seidlyar was hit with intermittent automatic-weapon and machine-gun fire from Armenia's Kapanskiy Rayon on 26 May. Kazanchi was also fired on. A militia worker was killed in a gunfire exchange in Kazanchi.

Fizulinskiy Rayon: (Gazel) and Govshatly were hit with artillery fire from the Armenian-inhabited areas in Khodzhavendskiy Rayon from 1400 to 1800 on 26 May.

Gorenboyskiy Rayon: Todan was hit with various types of fire from the Armenian-inhabited towns of [name indistinct] and Manashid on the night between 25-26 May. Three members of the national army were wounded. Our fighters returned the enemy fire.

Tavuzskiy Rayon: Alibeyli and Agdam were intensively shelled from Armenia's Shamshadinskiy [Tavushskiy] Rayon with artillery guns at 2300 on 26 May. Initial reports said that one of our fighters was killed and two others were wounded. The shelling caused damage in the towns.

Kazkahskiy Rayon: Kyzyl Gadzhily, Kushchu Ayrum, and Ashagy Askipara were relentlessly fired on from the Noyemberyanskiy Rayon with various types of arms on 26 May. No one was killed.

Mutalibov Seeks Permission To Return Home

OW2505143792 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1330 GMT 25 May 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Ex-president of Azerbaijan Ayaz Mutalibov has asked the new leadership for permission to return home. He expressed this wish in a telephone conversation with Azeri Premier Ragim Gusseynov last Saturday [23 May], Azeri Interior Minister Iskander Gamidov told IF [INTERFAX]. Gamidov confirmed that Mutalibov is presently kept in a Moscow clinic. He said that the authorities insisted that Mutalibov make a written application and pledge that he will not resume political activity. Gamidov noted at the same time that if Mutalibov comes back he will face a trial which is expected to establish his guilt and to dot all the "i's" in the case of "state coup" on May 14. On May 14, the extraordinary session of the Azeri parliament reinstated Mutalibov as president and cancelled presidential elections scheduled for June 7.

Social Democratic Party Member Interviewed

LD2205202692 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1350 GMT 22 May 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent aleksandr Krasulin]

[Text] Moscow, 22 May—"Today mob rule has taken the place of partocracy in Azerbaijan," Zardusht Alizade, member of the Azerbaijan Social Democratic Party [SDP] Central Committee Bureau, stated in an interview with a TASS correspondent. He said that he had been forced to leave Baku because of "sanctioned terrorist actions which criminal elements from among members of the Azerbaijani Popular Front (APF) are carrying out aginst the SDP leadership" who are criticizing APF policy.

Zardusht Alizade noted that in the present conditions, when the APF leaders have seized all levers of power in the republic, they will be able to score an "overwhelming victory" in the elections. He believes that there are no trained politicians and leaders in the APF, which is why the Front will only be able to hold on to power in conditions of instability. It is precisely for this reason that the APF is against joining the CIS, inasmuch as this would create the prerequisites for a peaceful resolution of the conflict with Armenia; in conditions of peace their incompetence would become obvious, and would not permit them to hold on to power.

In Zardusht Alizade's view, the republic's new leadership suits Armenian extremists for whom, in the conditions that have arisen, it is easier to achieve their aim of wresting Nagorno-Karabakh from Azerbaijan if they are dealing with incompetent politicians.

Touching on the start of combat operations in Sadarak rayon of the Nakhichevan Autonomous Republic by the Armenian side, Zardusht Alizade said that this action pursues a double aim. On the one hand, to divert attention from Karabakh, and on the other hand to discredit Geydar Aliyev, chairman of the Supreme Majlis of Nakhichevan, whose political rating has increased remarkably of late. His return to the republic's leadership would not bode well for the APF, Zardusht Alizade noted.

Presidential Candidates Continue 'Struggle'

OW2205191392 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1659 GMT 22 May 92

[From the "Presidential Bulletin"; transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Friday [22 May] at a press conference one of the officially registered candidates for the Azeri presidency, the first deputy Chairman of the Parliament Tamerlan

Karayev expressed his conviction that the June 7 elections will take place. According to him, nobody of the 7 candidates refused to continue the struggle for the post of the state's head. At the same time Karayev is afraid of provocations aimed at the disruption of the elections. He reported that international supervisors will be invited to the presidential elections, and the former US President Jimmy Carter is expected to arrive to Baku.

Answering "IF" 's [INTERFAX's] questions on the possibility of new parliamentary elections in the republic in the near future, Karayev said that the National majlis will pass a law on elections on a multi-party basis these days. He said that after that the elections to the Supreme Soviet will be possible. He reported that the new parliament will apparently be elected for two years, and its main aim will be the adoption of a new Constitution of Azerbaijan.

Georgia

Two Soldiers Killed in Attack on Troop Convoy

LD2505191692 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1855 GMT 25 May 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Albert Kochetkov]

[Text] Tbilisi, 25 May—A convoy of vehicles of a Georgian Ministry of Internal Affairs rapid reaction troop battalion was today subjected to an armed attack by unknown persons near the town of Zugdidi in the west of the republic. The attackers managed to blow up an APC and a mini-bus carrying a machine gun. Two soldiers were killed and eight sustained injuries, some serious. The ITAR-TASS correspondent was unable to confirm this information, which was obtained through unofficial channels at the Georgian Ministry of Internal Affairs.

Combat Activity Escalates in Ossetian Areas

LD2605091792 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0741 GMT 26 May 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Valeriy Shanayev]

[Text] Vladikavkaz, 26 May—Two civilians were killed and six wounded as a result of missile and artillery shelling of Tskhinvali from the direction of a number of Georgian villages on Monday, 25 May, in the second half of the day, the North Ossetian Security Ministry has stated.

According to information from the South Ossetian Supreme Soviet, Georgian fighters resumed shelling Tskhinvali today at 0500.

Speaking on North Ossetian television, Oleg Teziyev, commander of the South Ossetian armed forces, emphasized that in recent days there has been a sharp escalation in combat activity by the Georgian side on the territory of the region. All reports that the shelling of Tskhinvali and other Ossetian settlements is being carried out by detachments of "Zviadists", or supporters of Zviad Gamsakhurdia, the former president of Georgia, are simply untrue. According to intelligence reports, these mobile groups are well armed and have armored equipment, artillery, and rockets. It is not yet known who is coordinating their activities.

Oleg Teziyev noted that the South Ossetian leadership believes that the State Council of the Republic of Georgia is not in control of the situation in the region and is not undertaking effective measures to stop the bandit activities of the armed Georgian groups. The South Ossetian government is again compelled to issue an order to guardsmen and self-defense detachments defending the approaches to Tskhinvali on opening retaliatory fire in order to suppress the guerrillas' firing positions.

Due to the suspended gas supply into Georgia through the Transcaucasian pipeline which runs across North Ossetian territory, gas supply to Armenia has been interrupted as well. The concerned Armenian authorities have sent a government delegation to Vladikavkaz.

In the North Ossetian Supreme Soviet the Armenian delegation has condemned the barbaric actions by Georgian guerrillas [boyevik] who shot and killed 36 Ossetian refugees in the village of Kekhvi.

The Armenian delegation has asked for the fuel blockade to be lifted. In its view, an immediate Armenia-mediated quadripartite meeting between South Ossetia, North Ossetian, the Republic of Georgia, and Russia on the peaceful settlement of Ossetian-Georgian relations and on stopping the armed conflict in South Ossetia is the key to a solution to this problem.

S. Ossetia Accused of Impeding Massacre Inquiry

LD2605231292 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2157 GMT 26 May 92

[By SAKINFORM correspondent Guram Chanishviliy for TASS]

[Text] Tbilisi, May 26 TASS—Georgian Prosecutor-General Vakhtang Razmadze has accused South Ossetia of preventing Georgian law enforcement bodies from participating in the investigation of the massacre near the village of Kekhvi where 36 Ossetian refugees were killed last week.

Razmadze said the Georgian leaders and people denounced the act which was "aimed against Georgian and Ossetian people to thwart the peaceful settlement of the bloody conflict in the Tskhinvali region."

Georgian law-enforcement bodies's numerous requests to South Ossetia to allow them to participate in the investigation have been ignored and the Georgian prosecutor's office has received no materials on this accident so far, Razmadze said.

Razmadze warned that the Georgian side will refuse to continue the investigation if South Ossetia does not provide it with the necessary materials and refuses to set up a joint investigation group.

South Ossetia Under Fire by Armed Units

LD2705140392 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1235 GMT 27 May 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Valeriy Shanayev]

[Text] Vladikavkaz, May 27 TASS—Noted Ossetian writer Oleg Guchmazov and two other people were killed and ten wounded in heavy artillery shelling and rocket fire opened by Georgian armed units at Tskhinval on Wednesday [27 May]. Ossetian settlements, situated close to the administrative centre of South Ossetia also came under fire, according to reports from the local parliament.

Dozens of buildings were ruined in Tskhinval, many vital objects of urban infrastructure were damaged.

South Ossetian forces fired in response.

Georgian militants might attack Tskhinval in the near future, as they are advancing armed units and vehicles to the city, according to the information provided by South Ossetian Parliamentary Speaker Torez Kulumbekov.

The leadership of the neighbouring North Ossetia met with a Russian parliamentary delegation on Wednesday which had visited Tskhinval and the nearby villages.

Head of the Russian delegation, Nikolay Medvedev, who is chairman of the Commission of National-State Structure and Inter-Ethnic Relations, said he would immediately brief the Russian president and government on tragic developments in South Ossetia.

North Ossetian Parliamentary Speaker Akhsarbek Galazov appealed to President Boris Yeltsin and Parliamentary Speaker Ruslan Khasbulatov to take urgent measures to stop the bloodshed. If the Russian leadership fails to do that, North Ossetia, which makes part of Russia, retains the right to review its attitude towards the federative treaty it had signed, he warned.

Parliamentarians from North and South Ossetias plan to hold a joint session in the near future to discuss the latest developments in the region.

Also on Wednesday, North Ossetian leaders met a Georgian delegation headed by First Deputy Prime Minister Aleksandr Kavsadze who stressed that the Georgian State Council strives to settle the conflict by peaceful means.

More Murders Reported in South Ossetia

LD2805160792 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1654 GMT 28 May 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Valeriy Shanayev]

[Text] Vladikavkaz, May 28 TASS—According to reports from Tskhinvali, six more Ossetian civilians were murdered near the village of Khetagurovo, ten kilometers from Tskhinvali. The murder "handwriting" was similar to that of the Kehviy manslaughter, where Georgian militants killed thirty-six civilians. South Ossetia's parliamentary session had to cancel its session on Thursday [28 May]. From sources, close to South Ossetian Parliament, TASS learnt that South Ossetian delegation will not be able to reach Vladikavkaz by May 29. The session was to discuss the Kehviy atrocities.

Grachev Dismisses South Ossetian Nuclear Claim

LD2705144492 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1400 GMT 27 May 92

[Text] The RIA [Russian Information Agency] has reported what seems to be sensational news from Vladikavkaz. The South Ossetian National Guards have a nuclear bomb at their disposal which they are prepared to detonate if Georgia does not stop shelling Tskhinvali. Oleg Tezeyev, chairman of the South Ossetian Council of Ministers, reported this to Nikolay Medvedev, chairman of the Commission on National-State Structures and Interethnic Relations, who is head of the Russian Supreme Soviet delegation.

However, Army General Pavel Grachev, Russian defense minister, has dismissed the possibility of the presence of nuclear weapons in South Ossetia. At the same time, Medvedev has acknowledged that there is no complete guarantee that the general's categorical statements correspond to reality. According to Medvedev, last night was the most restless of his life.

Agreement on Monitoring Ossetian Cease-Fire

LD2805172492 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1630 GMT 28 May 92

[By unidentified ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Tbilisi, 28 May—Georgia and North Ossetia agreed on Wednesday [27 May] to set up a group to monitor the cease-fire in South Ossetia.

A report by the State Council of the Republic of Georgia, received by ITAR-TASS today, states that a delegation of the Republic of Georgia, headed by Aleksandr Kavsadze, acting deputy prime minister and chairman of the commission for interethnic relations, left for Vladikavkaz on 27 May. The delegation of the North Ossetian republic was headed by Supreme Soviet Chairman Akhsarbek Galazov.

"A way out of the crisis in order to establish peace and tranquility in the region was defined during the course of the talks," the report notes. "The Georgian side made it clear to the other side that the blockade is not a popular measure and a solution to the conflict by these means is not realistic."

The Ossetian side demanded a guarantee that in the event of a cease-fire by the Ossetian side the Georgian side would act in the same way. Aleksandr Kavsadze promised that all measures would be taken by the Georgian side to fulfill this condition. The sides agreed to set up a monitoring group that would monitor the conditions of the treaty.

Cease-Fire Observer Groups Formed

LD2805150292 Moscow POSTFACTUM in English 1217 GMT 28 May 92

[Text] Tbilisi—In Shida Kartli, South Ossetia, on May 27, the conflicting sides agreed that there will be permanent groups of observers at military groups. Observers had their purpose to prevent the opening fire on both sides. A common group of observers began to work in the territory in which a helicopter regiment is deployed in the approach to Tskhinval. Representatives of the Georgian interior bodies and of the Ossetian side monitor the observance of the cease-fire agreement and register which of the sides will be the first to begin firing. They refer this information to their headquarters so that urgent measures be taken to ensure the cease-fire, the service of the authorized official of the Georgian State Council in Shida Kartli reports.

Further on Shevardnadze Talks With Baker

LD2605223792 Moscow POSTFACTUM in English 1623 GMT 26 May 92

[From the "Politics" section]

[Text] Tbilisi—Chairman of the Georgian State Council: Economics is the greatest difficulty for the republic today. It has collapsed in the true meaning of the word.

At May 25 meeting with journalists before beginning of the talks with the US Secretary of State James Baker, Chairman of the State Council of Georgia Eduard Shevardnadze also said: America could help Georgia very much but we cannot ask for too much.

Touching upon the situation in Shida Kartli (South Ossetia) Eduard Shevardnadze said: This is a provoked conflict, the events developed too deeply and now it is hard to correct all this. But the process of reconciliation has begun. It will be difficult and complex.

James Baker told journalists: We had taken along with us political support for Georgian leadership's efforts to create a democratic society and a free market. USA have already provided assistance to Georgia with foodstuffs and medicines and already in June we will bring there a thousand of beds for hospitals.

Answering the question as to the US reaction in case efforts made by the opposition headed by Zviad Gamsakhurdia, to de-stabilize the situation in Georgia were crowned with success, James Baker said that they uphold democracy and free and fair elections. He said that it is difficult to expect free elections if the opposition's efforts to thwart them are a success, therefore they cannot support these efforts.

Speaking on May 26 at the final press-conference, Baker stressed: The USA continues to render assistance of humanitarian aid to Georgia. 500 tons of foodstuffs and 35 tons of medicines will be send to Tbilisi shortly.

Baker, Shevardnadze News Conference

MK2705133592 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 27 May 92 p 3

[NEGA report: "Georgia: Baker Pleased With Visit"]

[Text] U.S. Secretary of State James Baker visited Mtskheta, the ancient capital of Georgia, 26 May, the second day of his visit to Georgia, and then met with members of the republic's State Council.

A press conference was held yesterday during which Shevardnadze and Baker expressed their satisfaction with the results of the talks. Journalists were told that during their one-on-one conversation the U.S. secretary of state and the chairman of the Georgian State Council touched on problems relating to the political situation in the CIS, Europe, and, of course, Georgia. "We discussed a wide range of political, economic, and social topics and dwelt on Georgian problems in detail," Eduard Shevardnadze said. Mr. Baker said that the United States will support the democratization process in Georgia.

It was announced at the press conference following the talks that bilateral agreements are to be concluded and a trade and economic treaty signed in the near future. Shevardnadze described Baker's visit as an important phase in the development of Georgian-U.S. relations.

Baker was also pleased with his visit, describing it as fruitful and confirming the United States' willingness to provide Georgia with all manner of aid. "We want to cooperate as broadly as possible with your country," he said. "But this will in many respects depend on how democracy develops and, among other things, on the observance of the rights of national minorities and human rights." The secretary of state emphasized that the results of the October parliamentary elections will be of great significance for U.S.-Georgian rapprochement.

During the conversation, it was noted at the press conference, they discussed ways of surmounting the conflict situations in the Caucasus and examined in detail the situation in the Tskhinvali region.

Secretary of State Baker and his entourage left for the United States 26 May.

Shevardnadze on Baker Visit

LD2705160192 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 0500 GMT 27 May 92

[Report by correspondent G. Solomatin; from the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] [Solomatin] Secretary of State Baker's visit to Tbilisi has confused plans of Gamsakhurdia's supporters and has significantly strengthened the State Council's position. The indefatigable supporters of the former president would not calm down. All Tbilisi is talking about Gamsakhurdia's return and the terrorist acts that were prepared against members of the Georgian State Council. It was in such conditions that the U.S. secretary of state held a series of talks with Eduard Shevardnadze; attended a festival devoted to Georgia's Independence Day; acquainted himself with the town and its residents; visited Mtskheta, Georgia's ancient capital; and left Tbilisi in the afternoon.

[Begin recording] [E.A. Shevardnadze, chairman of Georgian State Council] It is difficult to talk about results now. On the whole, the visit was very timely, especially for us. An important stage in the emergence and formation of statehood and democratic system is under way now, and this visit had an enormous importance.

[Solomatin] Eduard Amvrosiyevich, tell me please, what do you feel?

[Shevardnadze] You know, despite all the difficulties and tribulations, I am happy. I am happy because I am taking part in this difficult and complex process which is, nevertheless, very necessary. I believe now that things will get under way. [end recording]

[Solomatin] The opposing sides continue to level accusations at each other, calling on each other to show common sense. [video shows crowds in Tbilisi streets; Baker and Shevardnadze on a walkabout; Baker boarding his plane; Shevardnadze interviewed outdoors]

Baker's Visit Viewed

MK2605154792 Moscow KURANTY in Russian 26 May 92 p 3

[Mikhail Shchipanov "Commentary": "From George in Georgia"]

[Text] George [as published] Baker has finally decided to add Georgia to his "diplomatic collection," the last of the Union's heirs that he has hitherto failed to visit. With his desire to visit the sunny republic the U.S. secretary of state has, as it were, put an end to a certain amount of suspense in the incumbent Tbilisi regime and considerably bolstered the trend toward almost mass world recognition of Georgia. Thus, Baker has removed all the doubts regarding Eduard Shevardnadze's undemocratic accession to the Georgian political heights, isolating once and for all the unfortunate Gamsakhurdia, who now has no one to turn to apart from Dudayev. So, internationally speaking the question of who wins has now been decided. Visits by U.S. officials have long certified to a regime's political maturity.

In short, Shevardnadze has not disappointed the hopes of those people who banked on the political capital that he won in Moscow. He undoubtedly attracts high-ranking interlocutors through his predictability and "transparency." Clearly, were Shevardnadze's exclusive partners to cool toward him, that would inevitably take its toll on the experienced politician's prestige in Georgia itself. So, Shevardnadze, unlike anyone else in the former Union, is forced to concern himself with his image in the West.

However, with his uncommon political flair Shevardnadze is not resting on old laurels, and his government is increasingly showing particular loyalty to NATO capitals. Note the statement issued by one of the members of the Tbilisi leadership regarding the willingness of "renewed Georgia" to cooperate very closely with the North Atlantic alliance. Clearly, NATO will not be rushing to fix up naval bases on the Georgian coast, and the republic is not strategically very important. However, the signal should be heard in Brussels.

Baker's visit to Georgia may enable Shevardnadze's team to run through various options for their own protection in the event of the South Ossetian conflict and the circumstances of Georgian formations' actions there attracting considerable attention from the international community. Tbilisi cannot feel psychologically confident while considering the situation in Tskhinval to be its own internal preserve. For that reason it is important for Shevardnadze to anticipate events and influence his friend Baker with a view to attenuating the Western reaction. However, double standards are hardly possible.

Gamsakhurdia Protests Baker Visit

OW2705213292 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1651 GMT 27 May 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The former Georgian president, Zviad Gamsakhurdia, who was ousted in January, protested against yesterday's visit to the republic by U.S. State Secretary James Baker.

In a message to Mr Baker sent to the U.S. Embassy in Moscow, he said the state secretary's visit was tantamount to recognition and support to what he calls "the world's most illegitimate, criminal, anti-democratic and terrorist regime". Mr Gamsakhurdia maintains that it "has overthrown the democratically-elected government and now wages a wholesale war on its own people, violates human rights and basic freedoms, orders to break up and open fire on peaceful rallies and demonstrations, monopolises the media and encourages crime".

He also accuses Eduard Shevardnadze of restoring Stalinism, mass reprisals and tortures, arrests of innoncent people on charges of organising rallies and protests, stifling freedom of expression and ruthless censorship.

Mr Gamsakhurdia says that "the U.S. administration's support for the criminal totalitarian regime is nothing but the infringement on democratic principles underpinning the U.S. society, and those of the Helsinki accord, and the Paris Charter. [no closing quotation mark as received] He urged for withdrawal of any support to the present Georgian authorities and opening contacts with the representatives of what he calls "the legitimate Georgian government, now in exile".

Visit Seen as 'Moral Supoport'

PM2805082992 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 28 May 92 Morning Edition p 5

[Report by Besik Urigashvili: "Baker Comes To Support Shevardnadze"]

[Text] Tbilisi—At a news conferecne before J. Baker left Tbilisi E. Shevardnadze described the U.S. secretary of state's working visit as fruitful. But, observers believe, the visit was more by way of moral support for the new Georgian leadership and much less of practical significance.

At the same time, asked about the possibility of U.S. economic assistance for Georgia, Baker replied that there are specific accords on this score. In particular, the Americans are equipping a 1,000-bed hospital in Georgia and will be sending 500 tonnes of food and 35 tonnes of medicines very soon. But this is more an act of humanitarian aid. The secretary of state stressed that an agreement had been reached on preparing a treaty on cooperation between Georgia and the United States. Baker linked the prospects of this cooperation to the development of democratic processes in the country, observance of human rights, and the settlement of interethnic conflicts. It is clear that the American side attaches special significance to the Georgian parliamentary elections planned for 11 October.

"The whole world will be watching these elections, and much that relates to Georgia's future and the West's view of this country will depend on how democratic they are," Baker said.

He gave journalists to understand that questions of credit and large-scale economic assistance from the United States have not yet been seriously discussed and that this depends on the processes that unfold in Georgia before the parliamentary elections. This question will be considered at our future talks, Shevardnadze stressed.

Asked whether the critical situation in the Tskhinvali region had been touched on during the talks, Shevardnadze said that the secretary of state was satisfied with the information supplied by the Georgian side.

The fact that it was a friendly rather than business visit is clear from Baker's words to the effect that his visit to Georgia had been arranged for mid-June, but in view of the difficult political situation he considered it his duty to support Shevardnadze, whom he regards as his close friend, at this time.

Baker's visit contributed in many respects to the relatively peaceful celebration of Georgian Independence Day 26 May. On that day supporters of Z. Gamsakhurdia were planning to hold numerous protests, which could have developed into major disturbances. But the demonstration by approximately 2,000 supporters of the former president by and large did not affect the situation in the city, and it all passed off relatively peacefully.

Estonia

Vahi, Japan's Miyazawa Discuss Investment

LD2605125292 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1131 GMT 26 May 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vyacheslav Bantin]

[Text] Tokyo May 26 TASS—Some 25 thousand Russian servicemen remain on the Estonian territory to this day, and this destabilises the political situation in the republic, Estonian Prime Minister Tiit Vahi said on Tuesday [26 May] during a meeting with his Japanese counterpart Kiichi Miyazawa. The head of the Estonian government arrived last Sunday in Tokyo on a four-day unofficial visit.

Touching upon the territorial problem in Russo-Japanese relations at the meeting with Miyazawa, Vahi said that there is a territorial issue in Estonia's relations with Russia which, according to him, keeps three Estonian islands, KYODO TSUSHIN news agency reports.

The Estonian prime minister urged Japan to invest heavier in Estonian economy. He said there exists every necessary condition for this, including the necessary infrastructure.

There are 1,600 joint ventures in Estonia with the participation of foreign capital, he noted.

Prime Minister Miyazawa regarding Estonian economic problems, said priority attention should be given to realistic projects of moderate scope, not to grandiose programmes. Specifically, the development of medium and small enterprises in Estonia should be promoted to the utmost.

Vahi Comments on New Currency

OW2705111392 Tokyo KYODO in English 1050 GMT 27 May 92

[Text] Tokyo, May 27 KYODO—Visiting Estonian Prime Minister Tiit Vahi said Wednesday [27 May] his Baltic nation will introduce its own currency within a month or two.

"To be sure, it is difficult to have our own currency in the present troubled situation. But we cannot remain in the ruble bloc if we continue to be an independent state," Vahi told a press conference at the Japan National Press Club.

"The currency policy is a matter closely linked with independence of a country," he said through an interpreter. "At present, however, our currency policy is in Moscow's hands, not ours."

The 45-year-old prime minister said the International Monetary Fund (IMF) has promised to extend sufficient financial support in establishing a stabilization fund for the "krone," what will be the new Estonian currency [passage as received].

He said Estonia will aim to convert all rubles circulating in the country to krone in a single day, and expressed conviction the new currency will be convertible at a fixed rate with others.

On the contested pullout of troops of the former Soviet Union, Vahi said the solution hinges on whether Russia has the will to withdraw them.

Estonia has over 100,000 former Soviet troops on its soil, of which some 25,000 are Russians.

If Russia is willing, it is possible for its troops to be pulled out by the end of this year, Vahi said.

To this end, the premier said Estonia is preparing a joint appeal with fellow Baltic nations, Latvia and Estonia, in time for the summit of the Group of Seven (G-7) industrial nations in Munich on July 6-8.

Vahi, on a four-day official visit since Sunday, is the first leader of Estonia to visit Japan.

Japan established diplomatic links with the three Baltic states last October after they regained independence from the Soviet Union.

Watanabe Agrees To 'Pressure' Russia

LD2705091892 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0900 GMT 27 May 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vasiliy Golovin]

[Text] Tokyo May 27 TASS—Prime minister of Estonia, Tiit Vahi, and foreign minister of Japan, Michio Watanabe, agreed today to support each other's country in putting pressure on Russia demanding an early withdrawal of troops from the Baltic region and the renunciation of its rights on the southern Kuril islands.

The presence of the 25-thousand strong contingent of the former Soviet Union armed forces personnel on the territory of his country is the "cardinal factor of internal instability," the head of the Estonian Government, who is on an unofficial visit, emphasised during the talks. He called on Japan to support Tallinn on the world arena, which is demanding from Moscow the complete withdrawal of its troops, at present under the Russian jurisdiction.

In his reply, the Japanese foreign minister said that his government intends to raise the question regarding the withdrawal of the Russian contingent from the Baltic region in the forthcoming July conference of heads of seven leading industrial nations to be held in Munich. At the same time he called on Estonia to help Russia in its dispute with Moscow over the South Kuril islands.

Tiit Vahi emphasised his "full support" to Japan over this question.

Michio Watanabe also informed that Estonia will be one of the first Baltic republics, where Tokyo will open its permanent mission by sending two diplomats. Japan also intends to invite seven Estonian technical specialists as probationers and one diplomat for learning the Japanese language.

Ukraine's Kravchuk Visits; Greeted by Ruutel

LD2605103892 Tallinn Radio Tallinn Network in Estonian 0900 GMT 26 May 92

[Report from Tallinn Airport by correspondent Peeter Kaldre]

[Excerpts] This is Tallinn. This is Tallinn airport. It is two minutes to ten and Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk's special plane is landing. [passage omitted] Mr. Leonid Kravchuk has come out of the aircraft and on to the steps of the TU-134A3. Greetings are exchanged with [Estonian Supreme Council Chairman] Arnold Ruutel.

The Ukrainian delegation is very impressive, with Foreign Minister Anatoliy Zlenko; Supreme Soviet Presidium member Nikolay (Beloblodskiy); External Economic Relations and Trade Minister Anatoliy Voronkov; Cabinet Nationalities Committee Chairman Yuriy (Olenko); and other top officials in it.

Evidently the key event of the day today will be at Kadriorg where Estonian-Ukranian documents will be signed. They are an agreement on friendship and cooperation, and an agreement on economic and trade cooperation. [passage omitted]

Cooperation Agreement Signed

OW2605212292 Moscow BALTFAX in English 2025 GMT 26 May 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] This Tuesday [26 May], in Tallinn, the Chairman of Estonia's Supreme Council Mr Arnold Ruutel and the Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk signed a friendship and cooperation agreement between the two republics.

At the press conference following the agreement signing ceremony, Mr Kravchuk characterized it as "an instrument for further cooperation between the two states in various areas". Arnold Ruutel was vocal about the import of economic ties between Estonia and Ukraine.

The two sides also signed a trade and economic agreement which, reciprocally, provides them most favored status in trade.

Leonid Kravchuk told the press that he supports Estonia's demand for the withdrawal from its territory of the troops which fall under Russia's jurisdiction. "The longer Russia procrastinates the talks on the troops withdrawal," the Ukrainian leader said, "the more damage it will do to its own prestige".

Kravchuk Holds News Conference

LD2705123192 Tallinn Radio Tallinn Network in Estonian 1700 GMT 26 May 92

[Excerpts] Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk was in Estonia today on an official visit. In the afternoon, Estonian Supreme Council Chairman Arnold Ruutel and Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk signed a friendship and cooperation agreement between the two states. A Ukrainian-Estonian trade and economic agreement was also concluded today in Tallinn. It was signed by Economics Minister Heido Vitsur on behalf of Estonia, and by Anatoliy Voronkov, minister for external economic relations and trade, on behalf of Ukraine. Under the agreement, Estonia and Ukraine will grant each other most favored nation status in trade and economy.

Before signing the interstate agreement, Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk held talks with Estonian Supreme Council Chairman Arnold Ruutel.

Leonid Kravchuk gave a news conference today. Peeter Kaldre has this to say about what he heard there.

[Kaldre] Undoubtedly the Ukraine president's visit is one of the key events of recent times for Estonian foreign politics. [passage omitted] Mr. Kravchuk acknowledged that in its struggle for freedom, Ukraine has followed the Baltic states, including Estonia. [passage omitted]

According to Leonid Kravchuk, the most important outcome of today's talks was that a joint position was reached on all the most important issues. For us, perhaps, the most significant is the fact that Ukraine supports a prompt withdrawal of Russian troops from Estonia. It is internationally accepted that the troops of one state should not be on the territory of another state, especially if the other state does not want this, Kravchuk said. He noted, however, that the troops must be withdrawn as a result of talks and by taking into account Russia's strategic position.

Incidentally, Ukraine is willing to call home its soldiers and officers serving in Estonia. These are said to number just over 2,500. Ukraine is also willing to accept the Ukrainians residing in Estonia; there are said to be 48,000 of them. Ukraine has the appropriate legislation to permit this; only the mechanism to achieve this is still needed between the states. [passage omitted]

It was revealed at the news conference that relations between Russia and Ukraine are not particularly good at the moment. Primarily, this concerns the situation in the CIS as a whole, and the crisis issue. [passage omitted]

Latvia

Russian Troop Arrivals Violate Agreement

LD2805102592 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian 0430 GMT 28 May 92

[Text] According to information at the disposal of the Latvian Defense Ministry, the Russian force located in

Latvia is preparing to receive additional troops, newly recruited from Russia. This was reported by a Latvian Defense Ministry official who asked to remain anonymous. Officers from the Russian Army division stationed at Dobele are about to go to Russia to bring back new recruits. According to approximate information, the Dobele Division is expecting around 1,500 Russian soldiers. The commander of the Russian Army unit stationed at Kuldiga is not concealing the fact that he is awaiting the arrival of new soldiers from Russia.

In view of the fact that the Latvian border guards and the Land Defense Guards are patrolling the Latvian land border, it is most likely that the new soldiers will be dispatched to Latvia in Russian Air Force planes. It is possible that this action will be carried out at either the Vainode, Tukums, or Lielvarde Air Force bases. By sending its new recruits to Latvia, Russia is violating the agreement reached on 1 February this year between Latvia and Russia, whereby Russia undertook not to supplement its Army with new troops from Russia during the withdrawal of the Russian troops from Latvia.

Defense Official on U.S. Role in Withdrawal

*OW2705181292 Moscow BALTFAX in English
1357 GMT 27 May 92*

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Latvia's deputy minister of defense Mr Valdis Pavlovskis in his interview to Riga's "Diena" daily informed the paper that during his recent visit to the United States he advised U.S. officials of the Latvian government's intention to reach an agreement with Russia in regards to the withdrawal of the former USSR troops from the territory of the Republic within the next 18 months. Latvia can count on U.S. support in this area, Mr Pavlovskis reasons, should the U.S. Administration, for instance, sanction a proposal, brought forward by several U.S. senators, which envisages the allocation of $24 bn [billion] in terms of assistance to the former USSR troops subject to withdrawal. Some of these resources could be channeled into apartment building for the Russian service members.

Mr Pavlovskis also revealed that neither the Pentagon nor the State Department have voiced any objections to the U.S. allocating to Latvia the funds needed for military education and combat training, battle uniforms and equipage, and communications facilities. On its behalf, Latvia would guarantee that no military gear purchased in the U.S. would ever be re-sold to third parties.

In the meantime, Mr Pavlovskis was more skeptical about the option for Latvia to purchase U.S. weapons. In his words, not a single western country wants to put at risk its relations with Russia, which implies that the Latvian Army will still have to be armed with the weapons of the former Soviet Army. In the unspecified future, Latvia, however, is planning to re-equip its armed forces with the NATO inventory. As of present, this venture appears to be too costly for the republic's budget. In the opinion of Mr Pavlovskis, Latvia is likely to join the European security structures only in 1997 provided the former USSR troops were withdrawn from the republic by the beginning of 1993.

Mironov Lodges Protest With Latvian Leadership

*PM2705084392 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian
23 May 92 Morning Edition p 2*

[Report by Irina Litvinova: "Commander Protests To Latvian Leadership"]

[Text] Riga—New incidents against Russian servicemen have forced Colonel General Valeriy Mironov, commander of the Northwestern Group of Forces, to make a protest to the Latvian leadership.

"Regrettably, I am forced to recognize that there are clearly some leaders who would not balk even at turning the situation into a 'Baltic Dniester Region,'" V. Mironov said at a meeting with journalists. "These are the facts. Unarmed Russian border guards were attacked 13 May. A soldier was injured. Incidentally, the bullets which the surgeons extracted were made in Czechoslovakia. On the night of 15-16 May there was an attack by unknown masked persons wearing camouflage fatigues on a Baltic Fleet coastal defense observation post. Assault rifles, grenades, and cartridges were taken. Sailors were beaten up. On 19 May a military camp in Riga was seized by security forces and irregulars [boytsy opolcheniya].

"We have warned in our protest that we do not support strong-arm methods, but the situation is making us take additional measures to protect both our people and Russian property. These may include the use of weapons—naturally, within the bounds of the law and military regulations."

Authorities Take Over Russian Military Airfield

*LD2705211892 Riga Radio Riga International
in English 2030 GMT 27 May 92*

[Text] Ivars [?Lamberg], the mayor of the Latvian seaport of the town of Ventspils, informed the daily 'DIENA' that the local authorities had taken over the first Russian military facility, the military airfield and its premises worth approximately two million rubles (?Lamberg) said that the hand-over had proceeded in a civilized manner and added that local authorities planned to use the airfield as a civil airport for tourists and businessmen already in September of this year. The next to be regained is another vast area of the Russian antiaircraft defense, said (?Lamberg). The local authorities have promised a partial compensation for the accommodation which is to be repaid to the municipality.

Godmanis, U.S. Ambassador Discuss Trade Accord

LD2605174792 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian 1300 GMT 26 May 92

[Text] The chairman of the Council of Ministers of Latvia, Ivars Godmanis, today received the U.S. ambassador to Latvia, Ints Silins. He presented the Latvian prime minister with a draft agreement on development of trade and investment between the United States and the Republic of Latvia. This intergovernmental agreement will become the basis of economic cooperation between the two states. Also discussed was the question of possibly opening direct air links between the United States and Latvia.

IMF Delegation Pays Visit To Collect Data

LD2705224392 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian 1730 GMT 27 May 92

[Text] In order to assist Latvia in working out a macroeconomic program and a memorandum to be presented to the International Monetary Fund [IMF], a delegation from the IMF has arrived in Riga, led by the senior economist of the IMF European Department, Leif Hansen. The delegation also includes specialists on banking questions, budgets, and wage and price problems.

Meeting with Deputy Minister of Finance Valentina Andrejeva, the leader of the IMF delegation, Leif Hansen, announced that the data collected about the present state of the Latvian economy during the previous IMF visit are incomplete and unsatisfactory. The data do not allow a prognosis of the development of the Latvian economy in 1992 and 1993 and the completion of an economic program. For its final version, information must still be provided on the Latvian budget deficit, and economic relations with Russia must be settled.

The IMF specialists think that Latvia's balance of payments (?must be) correctly compiled. A certain deficit could appear. After working out an appropriate program, this deficit might possibly be covered by foreign [word indistinct]. The IMF representatives believe that the first meeting, during which the offering of financial aid to Latvia would be discussed, could take place in June.

Deputy Finance Minister Valentina Andrejeva reported that a draft for the economic development of Latvia has been completed, to be discussed in the near future at a government meeting. In the view of Latvian specialists, this draft, which incorporates the recommendations of the IMF, could become the basis for the joint work of the Latvian and IMF specialists on a program for economic development.

Lithuania

Landsbergis Could Quit Over 'Creeping Coup'

LD2605185792 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1752 GMT 26 May 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Kazis Uscila]

[Text] Vilnius May 26 TASS—Lithuanian parliamentary speaker Vytautas Landsbergis hinted on Tuesday [26 May] he may resign if attempts to restore the old regime go on in the republican parliament.

"Either the creeping coup is stopped, or I am out", he told a parliamentary session.

The "creeping coup in the Lithuanian parliament", according to Landsbergis, is organised by the Democratic Labour Party of Lithuania and associated political forces, which "strive to restore the old regime".

However, Algirdas Brazauskas, chairman of the Democratic Labour Party and former top communist leader of Lithuania, rejected Landsbergis' accusations and called for constructive parliamentary work.